



Dear Homeschool Community,

Many of us homeschooling in Michigan are full of uncertainty right now. There are a lot of questions that we simply do not have the answers to yet. Michigan is currently one of the most free states to educate in, and homeschoolers are clearly protected under the law. The current school code was amended in our favor back in 1994. That amendment came after homeschool parents and leaders worked tirelessly with the legislators of those days. But like any law, it could change at any time. Given recent activity in Michigan’s capital, and the change to Michigan’s legislative makeup, we expect those protected rights to come under attack soon.

The right to homeschool here in Michigan was earned by homeschooling families like yours, spending their time getting to know their legislators and vice versa. In order for these rights to continue, our generation must continue doing what the pioneers of home education did: build bridges with our legislators. This is, perhaps, the most important generation to take up that cause.

Let me encourage you, this is not over. The Lord can use you and your family to make a difference. We have put together a list of ideas for you and your family, in order to help connect with your local legislators. By doing so, you will build bridges and tear down barriers. You will help create a positive relationship between the homeschool community and our legislature. **If you make the time**, you will earn their confidence and be given the opportunity to converse with them about issues that are important to you, despite their political persuasion. Here are some ideas to help you get started:

1. **Figure out who represents you in Lansing.**
 - a. State Representative Locator: <https://www.house.mi.gov/#findarepresentative>
 - b. State Senator Locator: <https://senate.michigan.gov/FindYourSenator/>
2. **Write a letter introducing yourself and your family.** In the letter thank them for all their hard work and service to the people of Michigan. Tell them you are praying for them and ask if they have any specific prayer requests. If they share a request, be sure to follow up with a ‘Thinking of You Note’ and see how they are doing.
3. **Visit them in their local district office or in Lansing.** Many legislators set aside certain times in their districts to meet with their constituents, that’s you. Many of these are labeled as “coffee hours.” Attend these coffee hour breaks and engage in a respectful conversation with them. Let them get to know you.
4. **Send cards of encouragement throughout the year.** The beginning of their term, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are all great opportunities to thank them for their service.
5. **Invite them to homeschooling events in your area.** Picnics, programs, graduations, concerts, etc. Let your local legislator SEE the opportunities homeschool families have.
6. **Consider volunteering in their office or on their campaign.** If they share your values, offer your time to help. Homeschoolers can assist with mailings, phone calls, placing yard signs, distributing literature door-to-door, marching in local parades, etc.

God has blessed the homeschoolers in Michigan because of the relationship-building that has gone on for many years between homeschooling families and our legislators. For decades, there have been firewalls in both the House and Senate Education Committees, men and women who have stood strong for our homeschooling freedoms, because they know us and trust us. **This is no longer the case.**

In all things, we must acknowledge the Lord’s sovereignty. **Proverbs 21:1 “The King’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water, He turns it wherever He wishes.”** Our state is in God’s hands. Let’s build bridges, not barriers with those the Lord has placed in our government. Then trust him to do the rest as he wills.

God bless your homeschool family as you continue to trust Him in all you do.

-Your MiCHN Legislative Team

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