

When this pandemic started my wife and I's children were affected by their school district going to remote learning. We knew that when this school year started, we did not want them to have to go through the ups and downs of not knowing from one day to the next if they would be in school with their friends or remote learning because of COVID-19. We did not want them to have to possibly wear masks all day and lose that individuality at their young age nor get no social interaction due to social distancing. Colorado also recently passed some laws that they will be required to learn, which do not align with our morals and values. When we started this endeavor, we knew there would be costs associated with this.

We as parents should get a say in the education of our children and not be punished financially for it. Each school district in the State receives funding from the tax dollars collected from *each* citizen of our State to put towards the education of our children, yet it can cost between \$700 and \$1,800 per child per school year to homeschool according to ***Time4Learning.com***. Costs that are an added expense to the household on top of the taxes paid for by the parents to the State.

The district that we live in received approximately \$8,000/student in tax revenue from the State according to their most recent financial audit; we as homeschool parents did not receive any type of tax credit or monetary benefit from the State for teaching our children from home even though we pay taxes to the State. We are blessed in that it is not a major financial break for our family, but not everyone is as blessed as we are or have the option to afford to have a parent stay home and homeschool their child.

I have former co-workers who have had to quite their jobs because of the hybrid learning from the school districts. The cost associated with sending their child to either a private school or homeschooling full time was cost prohibitive and there was not any other financial means to do it during this pandemic. Other co-workers have had similar issues where they have had to make the choice to keep their children enrolled in a public school and do the hybrid learning, even though they had fears about the pandemic, because of no access to different financial means like scholarships or tax credits for assistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated practices related to it have caused many parents to re-evaluate the education options for their children. As parents, we want what is best for our children and our children shouldn't suffer because of the financial cost to homeschool. We as citizens, deserve to give our children the best educational options available while utilizing the money we as taxpayers pay into the State. COVID-19 and its restrictions are not going away anytime soon and our education system still has a lot of work that needs to be done. Don't penalize the parents for making the best choice for their kids.

House Education

02/25/2021 1:30 PM

Testimony - HB21-1080 Nonpublic Education & COVID-19 Relief Act

First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Testifying	Text of Testimony	Registered
					<p>Please SUPPORT HB21-1080. COVID-19 significantly disrupted education for Colorado schoolchildren. Many parents have opted for private schools and home-based education as more viable options for learning for their children. This resulted in increased educational expenses for many families and this bill would help offset those additional costs and provide needed economic relief. Please SUPPORT HB21-1080.</p> <p>In addition, the date and time of the hearing of this bill was posted to the Colorado General Assembly website with fewer than 24 hours notice to Colorado citizens, thus limiting our ability to become involved in the process.</p> <p>We have educated our children both publicly and privately and we are firm believers that all children should be treated equally and have equal access to education.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	
Jeffrey	Nepple	For	Self	Submitted text		2/25/2021 12:54
Mitchell	DeIDuca	For	Self	Uploaded file		2/24/2021 16:52
Brittany	Vessely	For	Colorado Catholic Conference	Uploaded file		2/25/2021 12:59