



A Joint Statement

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

As Christians, we live not only under God's grace in His right hand kingdom of the Church, but we confess with His Holy Word that those in authority in His left hand (or civil) kingdom are God's servants for our good. (Romans 13:1-7) Within our freedom of the Gospel, we counsel those in authority to walk in godly ways and rule according to God's measure of righteousness and good order.

While we recognize that a well educated citizenry equips the people of the this state to serve one another in love, the measures proposed in HB 2827 overstep the bounds of decency to achieve that goal. Called "The Homeschool Act," this proposal has far reaching implications beyond homeschooling that could adversely effect the autonomy of our congregational and association schools, as well. Our partners, such as the Illinois Coalition of Nonpublic Schools, Illinois Christian Home Educators, the Association of Christian Schools International, and the Catholic Conference of Illinois well document concerning measures, such as the requirement to provide confidential/personal student information to state authorities, require the registration/recognition of non-public schools by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the submission of curriculum for ISBE review and approval, and (contrary to the 2012 US Supreme Court decision *Hosanna Tabor v. EEOC* 565 U.S. 171) establishing state mandated requirements for who may teach in our Lutheran (and other non-public or home) schools.

While these concerns are certainly sufficient to cause concern, what troubles us the most is the presupposition behind this bill that disregards the fundamental, 4th Commandment principle that schools, and even the state itself, are extensions of office and vocation of parent. On March 4, this bill was referred to the Education Policy Subcommittee. Please contact your own legislators, or the [members of the committee](#) (click link for a list of those members) and encourage them to vote no on this harmful bill.

God bless your Lenten disciplines as we journey with our Lord to His atoning sacrifice upon the cross, the glorious proclamation of salvation in the resurrection and empty tomb, and His sovereign reign over all of creation in His ascension.

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