



www.nevadahomeschoolnetwork.com

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Response to opinion piece published in the [Reno Gazette Journal on January 23, 2018](#) calling for increased regulation of homeschool families by Mr. Cameron Etchart

Interesting opinion piece Mr. Etchart. However, that's just what it is, your opinion with no data to back up your claims. Perhaps you should have contacted homeschool parents who worked for over 25 years to free Nevada parents from burdensome controls imposed upon us by the Nevada State Board of Education from 1983 to 2007.

Government does not fund any homeschool in this state so that is why homeschool parents are not "accountable" to the government for the education of their children. Further, US Supreme Court as well as Nevada Supreme Court cases uphold a parent's right to educate their children free from government control. Homeschool parents take FULL LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY to ensure that their children are educated, to become functioning members of society. And should parents not do their job the Nevada court system (via CPS) can step in to review any charge of education neglect brought against a "homeschool" family.

Like so many of my homeschool friends, I spent all 18 years of my children's K-12 education, 1990 - 2008 living under those burdensome regulations, filing out annual paper-work, getting "approval" of our homeschool and proving to the government that I was educating my three sons far above where they'd have been if enrolled in public school. I am responsible for my children's education, not the government.

All three of my sons attended UNR and graduated with degrees in Civil Engineering (and an MBA), Business Finance (now an attorney) and Environmental Engineering. All three are employed in their field of study. I was also a member of the Northern Nevada Home School Advisory Council to the State Board of Education for 16 of those years and worked with other parents to bring about the LIBERTY we now have in Nevada to educate our own children.

Nevada Homeschool Network (NHN) was formed in 2002 as statewide homeschool advocacy group seeking relief from Nevada's over-restrictive homeschool regulations. Our organization's goal has long been to protect the right and responsibility of parents to educate their children FREE of regulatory burden... just as they are free to do regarding the raising, feeding, clothing, and overall nurturing of their children without seeking permission from the government. Please take the time to visit our website at, www.nevadahomeschoolnetwork.com .

In all these years there has not been one single case in Nevada of a family legally homeschooling their children being accused of educational neglect or any other kind of abuse. Homeschooling is not a "hiding place" for abuse, NV parents sign a statement taking FULL RESPONSIBILITY for the education of their children when they submit their Notification of Intent to Homeschool with the local school district... and they do their job without the state "checking up on them" like common criminals.

Further, the current NV homeschool law was written to ensure that ANY concerned citizen could notify Child Protective Services if they suspect neglect or abuse in a family that homeschools, just as they can report neglect/abuse of a child enrolled in a public or private school. But again, to date there have been no such cases and your insinuation is grossly misguided. Bring your evidence of abuse in family after family in Nevada before you falsely accuse "all" homeschool parents.

In fact, in Carson City, NV in 2006 two children (never schooled) were caged in a bathroom of a family's apartment while two other children living in the same apartment went to public school every day and never reported that anything bad was happening to their brother and sister. No teacher ever suspected. It wasn't until one of the children escaped and was found wandering the streets in Carson City by a police officer that CPS was called in. Those were evil parents, same as the Turpins, but not the same as all other parents.

Homeschool families are not invisible... they are in neighborhoods, attend churches, shop in the same stores you do, go to doctors, dentists, and hospitals for medical care, attend homeschool co-ops and support groups in public buildings and participate in numerous community sports and activities right alongside public and private school children... they can be and are seen every day.

And maybe one of our crowning achievements are the SIXTY homeschool students ages 12 to 18 enrolled in the WNC Jump-Start program receiving dual-credits for high school and college. These 60 students have the highest GPA average of ALL public and private school students participating in the Jump Start program. Perhaps you'd like to interview the Dean of the program and get his opinion as to whether homeschool students are, as a population, better educated than most public school students.

Lastly, please see this article from Dr. Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute, "Child Abuse of Public School, Private School, and Homeschool Students: Evidence, Philosophy, and Reason" By Brian D. Ray, Ph.D. January 23, 2018; <http://nevadahomeschoolnetwork.com/homeschooling-and-child-abuse-child-neglect-and-child-fatalities/>. And read "Answers to Good Questions" that NHN used in lobbying for the Homeschool Freedom bill before you start calling on the NV Legislature to reverse our sound law, included in the link.

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