

11/20/2018

To the author of, [**World is their classroom, but are New Mexico home-schoolers learning?**](#)

Dear Mr. Nott,

Since the comments on your [10/27/18 article](#) published in the Santa Fe New Mexican are now closed I'm emailing you with some information you might be interested in for any future articles on homeschooling in your state.

From your article "...some experts say lax oversight of home schools can lead to educational neglect of children or allow other types of abuse to go unnoticed."

Perhaps you are not aware, but neither Robert Kunzman nor Rachel Coleman can be called "advocates" of homeschooling. The sentence specifically declaring Ms. Coleman as an "advocate" of homeschooling is blatantly false. As Tina Hollenbeck correctly states in the comment section for your article,

"Please stop using Rachel Coleman as an "expert" source. She's a media hound but she is NOT a homeschool advocate. She is an ANTI-homeschool propagandist. She does NOT support homeschooling; she wants homeschoolers regulated to the hilt, which will steal their freedom." Further, there are other national research organizations worth researching and quoting from as well to offer readers a balanced look at the facts behind homeschooling

For whatever reasons, Mr. Kunzman and Ms. Coleman do not trust American parents to know, understand, and have the best interests of their children at heart, at least when it comes to their academic training. They espouse the belief that only the government can assure that children are educated. Which is an interesting concept – the state is not "ultimately" responsible for ensuring children "are educated." Instead, as in most state constitutions, including New Mexico, the state is only required to "establish and maintain" a public school system ([see page 146 on the NM SOS page](#)). This constitutional mandate does not authorize state control of either private schools or homeschools.

Being a successful homeschool parent and true advocate for homeschool freedom in Nevada since 1990, I do not share the pessimistic views expressed. I find myself searching your article for truth – it is not there. While you do quote some New Mexico homeschool parents and their personal antidotes, you don't ever quote or source any state or national homeschool organizations that represent a much larger population than either of your two "experts." Consequently, your article is biased and one-side at best, and lacks a degree of journalistic integrity at worst.

However, I do have good news! There are other online sources to help with balance in any articles you may write in the future on this topic. May I direct you to an online resource that is full of research and facts concerning homeschooling in the United States – [Homeschooling Backgrounder](#), <https://homeschoolingbackgrounder.com/>. Perhaps you could spend some reading through some of their information for the truth about homeschooling. As an example, in your article you printed the comments of a NM Children, Youth and Families Department spokesman;

"However, said spokesman Henry Varela, many child abuse cases originate from educators' reports. He provided data showing that of the more than 20,000 reports of possible child abuse the agency receives each year, about 15 percent come from school personnel. School workers

make up the third highest category of child abuse reporters, right after anonymous callers (about a third) and law enforcement (a quarter).”

This article in the Homeschooling Backgrounder could have been used as rebuttal, [*Child Abuse: The Public School Safe Harbor Myth*](#).

Lastly, it may surprise you know that the *vast majority* of parents who choose to sacrificially homeschool (without demanding funding from the state) do so because they love their children and to prepare them to become productive members of society. The call for the state to increase regulations on private, self-funded homeschooling is an affront to the history of individual liberty establish in our Constitution. Let the facts be known.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dragon
Nevada Homeschool Network Officer Emerita
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