

April 11, 2019

Assembly Health & Human Services Committee

Via email: AsmHHS@asm.state.nv.us

RE: [AB 430](#) & [the proposed amendment by Assemblywoman Backus](#)

Dear Assembly Health & Human Services Committee Members,

By way of introduction, Nevada Homeschool Network (NHN) advocates for families who have chosen to direct the education of their children via homeschooling. We also advocate for the fundamental rights of all parents. In this second capacity, we are writing today regarding [AB 430](#). This bill would mandate the Division of Child and Family Services to conduct home visits of families who are defined as “at risk” for a number of arbitrary and discriminatory reasons.

Objections to the bill:

- Home visits by state social workers without “evidence of true abuse/neglect” would violate the Fourth Amendment of our United States Constitution. Nevada families should be respected and protected from unjustified attempts by government officials to enter their homes.
- Although the intent may be to help struggling families and improve child welfare the vague and condescending language would actually result in the widespread harassment of parents. Additionally, this state “service” would duplicate many programs already in existence to assist new parents.
- There is no credible research showing that what works in a private “voluntary” environment will work in a government “coercive” environment as required by this bill. Indeed, often times what begins as “voluntary” becomes “mandatory” over time – that is problematic.
- Providing for “appropriately trained professionals” to conduct non-voluntary home visits is ambiguous and would have a substantial fiscal impact upon the state.
- Further, the scope and timeframe a family would have to submit to NON-voluntary home visits is not defined and there is no opt-out provision in the bill guaranteeing no penalty or record kept of “eligible” parents choosing not to participate.

While the proposed amendment changing AB 430 to a “study” during the next interim session is an improvement and the scope of the study is slightly narrowed from the original bill we are still opposed to the concept of the state entering the home of citizens without due process. Even state run “voluntary” programs risk violating the rights of citizens. Nevada already has a procedure in place for identifying families who are truly at risk and need services. This proposed study to allow social workers to carry out the unwarranted home visits of well families is misguided and unnecessary. This bill, even with the proposed amendment is not factually justified and is an alarming attempt to reach into the homes of Nevada families.

Therefore, we respectfully request you vote no on AB 430 and the amendment.

Sincerely,



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