

To: **House Education Policy and Administration**

Re: **New Hampshire CACR 24 - the right to educate children**

Position: **Support**

Date: February 20, 2026

Honorable Members of the House Education Policy and Administration,

My name is Rachel Thomas, and I am a teacher in the field of Early Education. I write to you in support of NH CACR 24 - concerning the parental right to direct the education of their children. This amendment would uphold the rights of parents, and by doing so, show the value of the family in the eyes of the state. This will impact other teaching professions as well, and solidify the ideals and values we uphold as early childhood educators. Building family relationships are essential to our jobs as early childhood educators, and are fundamental to the well-being of the child.

In a position statement the NAEYC Code of Ethics for early childhood educators declares that “families play a primary role in children’s learning and development...a core responsibility to communicate, cooperate and collaborate with each child’s home, family, and community” (n.d.). One of the core values in the code of ethics is for early childhood educators to “uphold every family’s right to make decisions for and with their children” (n.d). The same can be said for teachers of all age groups - not just in early childhood.

According to NH Early Childhood Workforce Specialized Competencies, one of the basic, foundational skills for these teachers involves recognizing that families may have different goals for their children, and as teachers we must respect the choices that families make for their children (2015). Parents should have the right to direct the education of their child, and teachers should have the responsibility to offer alternatives if a subject matter conflicts with the families strongly held beliefs.

Parents are the primary educators of their children, and should have the right to decide what their child learns from teachers. Under the NAEYC Standards for Professional Preparation, candidates must “understand and value the role of parents and other important family members as children’s primary teachers” (NAEYC, 2009). Parents should be considered first and foremost in the lives of their children, and the state should reflect this value by passing this amendment.

I urge the Committee to vote this amendment as “Ought to Pass”.

Regards,
Rachel Thomas

References:

Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Educators National Association for the Education of Young Children

Position Statement. (n.d.).

https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/user-174467/code_of_ethics_for_early_childhood_educators_final_1.pdf

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE SPECIALIZED COMPETENCIES.

(2015, February 9). Dhhs.nh.gov; Child Development Bureau, Division for Children, Youth and Families, New Hampshire Department for Health and Human Services.

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt476/files/inline-documents/sonh/nh-ec-ws-competencies.pdf>

NAEYC. (2009). *Position Statement NAEYC Standards for Early Childhood Professional*

Preparation Position Statement .

https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/2009%20Professional%20Prep%20stdsRevised%204_12.pdf