



STATE OF LOUISIANA  
SENATE

REGGIE P. DUPRE, JR.  
District 20

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COMMITTEES:

Judiciary C  
Local & Municipal Affairs  
Retirement

September 13, 2002

Cecil Picard, Superintendent  
Louisiana Department of Education  
P.O. Box 94064  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

RE: Possible Legislative Changes with Home School/Home Study Laws

Dear Cecil:

The three (3) of us had a meeting with the following individuals:

Marsha Williams  
Home School Coordinator  
Terrebonne Parish School Board  
P.O. Box 5097  
Houma, LA 70361  
985-872-1205

Ulyse "Woody" Louviere  
Supervisor, Secondary/Vocational/Adult Ed.  
Terrebonne Parish School Board  
P.O. Box 5097  
Houma, LA 70361  
985-876-7400 Ext. 229

Frank Pasqua, Supervisor  
Child Welfare and Attendance  
Lafourche Parish Schools  
805 E. 7th Street  
Thibodaux, LA 70301  
985-446-5631

Ray Bernard, Supervisor  
Child Welfare and Attendance  
Lafourche Parish Schools  
805 E. 7th Street  
Thibodaux, LA 70301  
985-446-5631

Beryl Amedee, President  
CHEF of Louisiana  
200 Rhett Place  
Gray, LA 70359  
985-876-2141

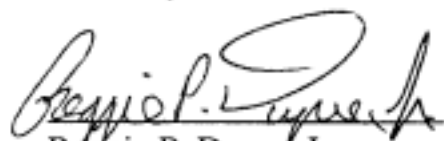
The purpose of this meeting was to discuss problems with the Home Study and Home Schooling Program. There are currently approximately 200 of these students in Lafourche Parish and over 300 in Terrebonne Parish. The child welfare office from these two parishes are concerned with the lack of accountability and enforcement of having these children receiving their adequate education.

The majority of home schooling parents seem to be doing a good job. However, there are parents who are misusing this system for other purposes. Some parents are allowing their children to drop out of school simply to circumvent compulsory child attendance laws. Some parents are even forcing their children into working at family businesses such as shrimping on shrimp boats. We are told of one example of a child in Terrebonne Parish where a child was removed from a public school so she could care for her bedridden mother.

There are no requirements that the parents who are home schooling to even have a high school diploma or a GED. We were told of one case where an illiterate father and a mother who was in special education applied for home schooling for their 16 year old daughter.

We are interested in filing bills for the 2003 Regular Session to tighten up on the requirements for home study and home schooling. At the very least, we should require that the home study "teacher" have a GED or a high school diploma. We understand that Sue Millican is doing a good job with the limited resources she has. However, we need to have your office empowered to make sure that these home study parents are doing what they are required to do. We suggest a meeting in the next few weeks with us and the individuals we met with to discuss these problems and come up with solutions.

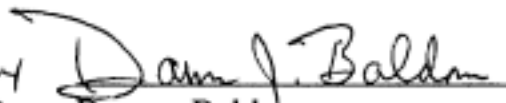
Sincerely,



Reggie P. Dupre, Jr.  
State Senator  
District 20



Butch Gautreaux by m.p.  
State Senator  
District 21



Damon Baldone  
State Representative  
District 53

cc: Glenny Lee Buquet, BESE Board  
Jerry Guillot, Senate Chief of Staff  
Mary Quaid, Executive Director, House Legislative Services  
Meeting Attendees