

NATIONAL CENTER
* * * for * * *
HOME EDUCATION

a division of Home School Legal Defense Association

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Dear Editor,

Dave Searles, of a recent Guest Column, is really upset. He wants to strictly regulate homeschooling. Now, many people may think it's a little unnecessary to bring down the heavy hammer of government (and waste gobs of taxpayer money in the process) on a small group of people who are the leading edge of excellence in American education. But not Dave Searles. No, despite the estimated 2 million homeschoolers nationwide, scoring on average 20 to 30 percentile points above public school students, on standardized tests, they are ALL, it appears to Dave, borderline criminals because they dare to educate their children apart from the all-knowing Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. And it's not just the formal education of children at home (i.e. reading, writing and math) that has Dave steamed; it's (and I think this is what's really ticking Dave off since he mentions it twice) that children in homeschool may come into contact with 'religion,' 'religious curriculum' or, heaven forbid, participate in 'religious activities.' If you follow Dave's logic all the way through it seems that he would also ban private Christian schools. In Dave's world there's no more 'loving your neighbor' and 'treating others better than yourself.' All Christian based education, in whatever form, is off limits. I have no idea what motivated Dave to write such a spiteful column but it isn't grounded in facts, logic or common sense. I hope he has a change of heart.

Sincerely,

Ian Slatter
Director of Media Relations
Home School Legal Defense Association