

The View From My Window features a guest columnist this month. Mrs. Theresa Deckert's column will return in September.

From Mrs. Deckert: School is just around the corner and soon after the legislature will be in session. The NDHSA is working on a bill for this session, but as we move forward it is important to think about some of the following statements by Roger Williams who is an independent researcher on homeschool issues. Roger worked with Dr. Ben Stegman and me to craft a response last session when the bill introduced by Rep. Chris Olson to allow parents to opt out of testing was attacked by an outside special interest group. We must always be vigilant!

Seven reasons for homeschoolers to oppose regulation

Guest Columnist, Rodger Williams, independent researcher on homeschool issues from Oregon

May 29, 2018

Many homeschoolers do not see danger in regulation because they and their friends have not personally experienced the outcomes of regulation that others have. This article is about the specifics of homeschool regulation and what you could expect.

We need to consider what regulations can be used for. They could be used to count homeschoolers. They could be used to identify where individual homeschooling families live. They could be used to require test results to be turned in to the State. They could be used to set minimum standards for individual students. They could be used to require annual home visits by authorities investigating the physical safety of your home or whether or not you are abusing your children. They could be used to require you to stop homeschooling and to put your student into public school. Let us consider these possible uses one at a time.

Regulations could be used to count homeschoolers: As a researcher, this sounds enticing to me. The more data the better for what I do. But there is another way to get this data: sampling and research. The research approach does not lead to whetting the appetite of the curious or control-oriented advocates for the supremacy of the State over individuals. My observation is that an existing regulation gives policy makers a sense of entitlement to impose more regulation.

Regulations could be used to identify where individual homeschooling families live: Public schools know where their students live. But public school families do not have public school critics trying to crack down on them. For instance, the bill against homeschoolers recently defeated in California proposed to publicly post the address of every homeschool family in California on the Department of Education website. The final proposed "compromise" was to only post the addresses where there were six or more homeschooled students. No one would dare do this to public school families. But they would do it to you.

Regulations could be used to require test results to be turned in to the State: This means that what you teach would be controlled too, because if you do not teach what the state wants -- including social engineering "education" -- then your child will not pass the tests. All the test publishers that I know of are already heading there with their latest tests, because their primary customers are the public schools. It will only get worse as the public schools are increasingly used as vehicles for social change.

Regulations could be used to set minimum standards for individual students: The fallacy is that it is normal for some students to fall below average in the achievement spectrum. Half of students will be below average, by definition, even when they are being taught well. 29% of students in New York will fall below New York's (absurdly high) 30th percentile cutoff point for homeschoolers, even when they are being taught well. 14% of students in Oregon will fall below Oregon's 15th percentile cutoff point for homeschoolers, even when they are being taught well.

Regulations could be used to require annual home visits by authorities investigating the physical safety of your home or whether or not you are abusing your children: We are increasingly seeing these types of bills being put forward in various states. Look it up. California was just the latest, with the bill requiring annual Fire Marshal inspections of homes being used for homeschooling. The idea was to get an official inside the homes of homeschoolers to look around. It was not limited to fire safety.

Regulations could be used to require you to stop homeschooling and to put your student in public school: This is in spite of the fact that many well-taught homeschooled students fall below the artificial test score cutoff points where a student becomes subject to remand to a public school. An additional travesty is that these laws make no provision to require evidence that a student to be remanded would be better served by the public school. And there is certainly no follow up required to make sure that remanded students are actually doing better in the public school.

One final thought: **Our critics are never satisfied.** They showed up last year in New York -- the most regulated state for homeschoolers in the country -- on the homeschool Legislative Day asking that homeschoolers be required to be finger printed and have a background check before being allowed to homeschool. <http://thehomeschooleffect.com/seven-reasons-for-homeschoolers-to-oppose-regulation.html>

Editor's Musings:

Greetings!

I've been recently rather incensed by the brouhaha regarding Laura Ingalls Wilder's unsuitability for reading according to an arm of the ALA. So I thought, how about reading something I know for years has been required reading in some, maybe many, high schools. I found my copy of *The Catcher in the Rye* which has been in my library for years, but I admit not having read it.

Well, it was an eye-opening experience. I found very little literary value in the book. Yes, it is about a young man trying to come to terms with his wayward, rebellious life. But I am confident there are books much better written with a much better outcome. This young man ruminated a lot but didn't seem to change his thought life or behavior much.

Worse than serving as a bad example for self-direction was the

language. Are you kidding me? This book is filled with bad language. Some forms I can tolerate, but I simply cannot bear it when authors use Jesus' Name as a curse word. They never use Buddha's name, or Shiva's, or Muhammad's Allah. To use Jesus Christ as an expletive is wicked. Period.

Plus, if you cannot make your dialog interesting and realistic without resorting to gutter talk then one can rightly question your validity as an author. True, it may be the way some folks actually speak, but perhaps it would be much better to inspire our young people to better speech, better actions, better thoughts.

As Paul said when writing to the church at Corinth, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

Grace and peace,

Gail M. Biby



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Honey, can you help me get ready to homeschool?

By Board President, Ken Knight

Dads, this question is being asked all over the world right now. Sometimes it's just a look on her face, sometimes she'll mention it off hand in a casual conversation. Sometimes it comes with some slight apprehension in her voice, sometimes it's an outright, in your face, I need an answer now discussion. Sometimes the question is prefaced by reminding you that they are your children too, and sometimes it surfaces in the middle of a full-fledged panic attack. However the request comes across your desk it is important that as the dynamic, breadwinning, wise, capable and spiritual leader of your home, you answer in the affirmative to this important opportunity to bless and serve your family. To this end I have a few suggestions that just might help you emerge as an heroic example of a loving husband and faithful father.

After the kiddos are in bed or early in the morning before they get up, (just so you won't get distracted) go to the room where your homeschool will be perpetrated with a clipboard, (with lots of paper), a pencil, and your wife. Do not sit down. Stand or walk around the room and begin by saying these words, "What do you need?" When she starts to tell you, write it all down. Don't start trying to talk her out of anything just keep your mouth shut till she is through. The occasional "mmm hmm" is OK. Also be careful to avoid any of the facial expressions that mimic intense pain or an urgent need to go to the bathroom (unless you urgently need to go to the bathroom.) You can remind her that the subject is homeschooling if she veers off track, but let her finish.

When she's done, resist the urge to say things like, "Are you crazy?" "We can't afford that." or "I can't build a Hadron Collider in the living room!" This is where you have the opportunity to become a true hero. Suggest something for the list that she didn't think of like, "Let's schedule a hot air balloon ride to better understand the laws of physics." or "Let's see if the county coroner will let us assist in an autopsy." or "I'll plan to take vacation days so we can go to the homeschool convention this year." Make sure you write those suggestions down, too.

Now go get a cup of coffee, tea or a cold Dr. Pepper and sit down to sort out what is possible from what will require a second mortgage or an engineering degree from MIT to accomplish. Usually you will be left with things like: installing better lighting in the dining room so Mom can see how many children she really has, or buying an adjustable height chair so that little Billy's penmanship can progress from cuneiform hieroglyphics to legible, or can getting some curriculum that doesn't teach that Herbert Hoover is still President.

Now comes the hard part. Sacrifice. Sacrifice the time you spend in the recliner for working on all the do-able things on the list. Sacrifice buying another hunting rifle or new fishing pole for a computer that doesn't have an amber screen. Sacrifice watching the news for helping Suzie derive square roots without a calculator. Make sure you ask God to help you keep a positive attitude about all of it.

Now for dessert, have Mom schedule a date night at least once a month and call it Parent Teacher conferences. By the way, that part about taking vacation days to go to the homeschool convention? Do that.

For information on getting involved in the legislative action coming up in 2019, check out our website: www.ndhsa.org

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education** to:
Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE,
Hampden, ND 58338
Check for expiration dates.



For legal assistance
**JOIN Home School
Legal Defense
Association.**
www.hslda.org

Words of Wisdom

From *Things We Wish We'd Known* compiled by Bill and Diana Waring
"From Confusion to Confidence: Making Choices in Curriculum" by Cam Leedahl

One early June day, I looked with distress at yet another new strategy to implement for the next year. Why was I not at peace? ... had I not been trying to serve God and obey Him? The words from a psalm came repeatedly to mind. "Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God." A portion of another psalm came to mind, giving voice to my heart, "Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me. My hope is in You all day long."

My heart was pierced as He revealed to me the futility of my human efforts. I had been researching and planning so hard, but instead of submitting to God, I had been maneuvering Him carefully into my plans. I had been hurrying along on my own timetable, not waiting for His leading. How could I have received counsel from the Lord under those limitations? I needed a purified set of goals, a new standard with which to judge progress. I no longer wanted to do it my way.

It was a precious summer. Day after day, I focused on what He was revealing to me from His Word, enlightening me on purpose, on education, on learning, and on my children's gifts and abilities. I became a student of my children, desiring to know them intimately, purposing to know their hearts, their hopes, their dreams.

The cultivation of the Word in my heart bore its fruit. I began to know what was necessary for my children. They needed to understand what they were learning, not just master the content. They needed to possess the tools of learning, so they could learn for themselves as a way of life. Most of all, they needed to long for the Lord. Academic requirements needed to become secondary to spiritual goals, for pursuit of discipleship in Jesus Christ would vault them far beyond what man could ever offer.

NDHSA Convention
Feb. 28--March 2, 2019
Jamestown Civic Center

Looking for a local support group for this coming school term? Check out: www.ndhsa.org and click on support groups.

The Homeschool Law

It's pretty simple to homeschool in North Dakota. You must be the parent or legal guardian and you must have a high school diploma or G.E.D. If you haven't either you may still homeschool but will need to be monitored for at least two years by a state certified teacher. (Hint: if you don't have a diploma, take the G.E.D.) Monitoring requirements at NDCC 15.1-23-06; -07.

You are required to file a statement of intent (soi) (available at www.ndhsa.org) at least 14 days before you begin homeschooling with your school district of residence on each child between the ages of 7 and 16. I recommend filing in early August no matter what your start date is; it saves confusion on the part of the school district office staff. The soi is to be accompanied by the child's proof of identity (unless already on file) and the child's immunization record (if you immunize; you may opt out of any or all based on religious, philosophical or moral beliefs). Medical exception also an option.

If you choose to opt out of testing in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10 as required by law, this notification must be included on your statement of intent. That doesn't mean you can't test. It simply means you needn't test in these years and you may use a test of your own choosing and you need-

n't file your test results with the school district. If you choose to test in a required year without opting out then you can provide your own test administrator (must be a N.D. state certified teacher) or you can request the school district provide you a test administrator and test materials. The test must be administered in the child's learning environment or at the local school at the parent's discretion.

Your child may participate in curricular or co-curricular activities at your local school district of residence. Fill in the appropriate section on your statement of intent.

You choose the child's curriculum; you choose the method of delivery; you determine grade levels. The law requires you provide 4 hours of instruction for 175 days, but which 175 days and which 4 hours are left to your discretion.

You must keep a few records. The law requires you maintain copies of the child's academic progress assessments/ standardized test scores and an annual record of courses. Though not required by law, I recommend you begin your child's high school transcript in grade 8; fill in as the years go by and by graduation you will have a completed transcript. Many examples are available online.

A complete copy of the N.D. Century Code dealing with homeschooling is available at our website or at www.hslida.org.

Explore British Literature!

Develop your student's literary analysis and composition skills through the study of England's greatest works! In [English 4](#), your student will learn about pivotal contributions to British literature from authors like Shakespeare and the Inklings. Additionally, your student will examine their worldview as they consider the human condition in a fallen world, the reality of grace, and the need for virtue within different time periods. [HSLDA Online Academy](#) offers 30+ courses to help make your high school education the very best. Visit our webpage for a [full course list](#). Registration ends August 8!

[Sign up now!](#)

Must-Read Online Articles

(Snatched from *Practical Homeschooling*.)

Your child's online screen time DOES matter!

HandsOnOTRehab.com/screen-time-brain-sensory-processing

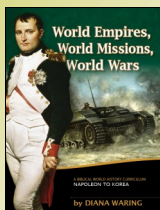
HandsOnOTRehab.com/screen-time-kids-guidelines

bit.ly/2or4baj

bit.ly/2ELFOXO

[World Empires, World Missions, World Wars](#)

Dr. David Aikman, author of titles such as "Jesus in Beijing" and "The Mirage of Peace," journalist who interviewed such notables as Billy Graham, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, and Boris Yeltsin, and Ph.D. historian, provided this review of *World Empires, World Missions, World Wars*:



"Diana Waring has written a careful, insightful history of the important developments in Europe and North America from the French Revolution to the beginning of the Cold War. What makes her account important from a Christian worldview is that she weaves in spiritual developments -- revivals, new Christian movements, prayer ministries -- with no false dichotomy between spiritual developments and the actual historical developments of the day. I recommend her work warmly."



www.ndhsa.org

An interesting tidbit from the Department of Public Instruction. The data for the 2017-18 school year was not complete but the DPI rep reported as listed below.

NUMBER of STATEMENTS of INTENT filed

1988-89	206
2013-14	2359
2014-15	2764
2015-16	2850
2016-17	3067
2017-18	5000+ (estimate from DPI)

Remember: Statements of Intent need to be filed on children between the ages of 7 to 16, so obviously the number of actual homeschooled children would be higher. See? You are not alone in this adventure!

Labor Day Camp sponsored by the Wendell and Beth Sip Family

Date: August 31- Sept. 3

Location: Crystal springs Camp near Medina, ND

Registration: Family Max: \$225 Couple: \$140 Single: \$70
13-17 yrs.: \$56 7-12: \$48 6 and under: FREE
Family w/ Camper: \$100

Activities: Water games; volleyball, football, Frisbee, cabbage ball, play dough, bead stringing and carpet ball.

Speakers: Cedric & Cheryl Fisher, Greensboro, NC

Contact: wbsip@gmail.com or 218.784.4804

Reminders: No pets; schedule given at registration; dress modestly; meals provided Fri. supper through Monday brunch; bring snacks to share; kitchen available in 'boys dorm' if you must bring your own specialty foods; bring bedding & toiletries.

JOIN TODAY!

The NDHSA depends upon the gifts and memberships of interested parties to maintain their current staff and services. Membership allows you access to member-only sections of www.ndhsa.org and discounted convention fees.

May 18-June 18

Income: \$642.97

Expenses: \$2,247.20

YIKES! This is not good; maybe God would have you donate to the work of the NDHSA during these final weeks of summer. The NDHSA is extremely frugal and wise in their spending, but it still takes some moolah to run the ministry.

Everyone Agrees: Why Go After Grandma?

From HSLDA, by Darren Jones

Choosing to homeschool for even the best of reasons won't necessarily prevent you from running afoul of the law--as this North Dakota grandmother discovered when she withdrew her disabled granddaughter from public school.

Fortunately, help is available--sometimes from the most unlikely of sources.

The trouble started for our North Dakota member long before she began homeschooling last September. Her granddaughter, whom she has been raising, struggles with heart problems that lead to other health complications.

The granddaughter spends a great deal of time in hospitals, which makes a regimented education program difficult. The grandmother finally decided the best thing would be to teach her granddaughter at home.

"She's very fragile," the grandmother told us. "This is my biggest reason for homeschooling her."

The grandmother filed a notice of intent last fall as required by law, but unfortunately neglected to submit additional paperwork the state demands for homeschool students who have a developmental disability.

She was subsequently visited by a CPS investigator. But in a refreshing turn of events, the investigator not only closed the case, but also helped the grandmother compile the additional documentation.

By February, the public school superintendent's office had received the paperwork and removed the granddaughter from their rolls. Unfortunately, the documentation was not filed in time to avoid being charged with truancy by the local city prosecutor.

To make matters worse, the legal trouble coincided with an extended stay by the granddaughter in a Minneapolis children's hospital, an 8-hour drive from the home. That's when the grandmother contacted HSLDA. Our local counsel Greg Lange quickly got the trial postponed due to the hospital stay. Then he conferred with a new prosecutor who had been assigned to the case.

Lange pointed out that with the caseload the prosecutor had inherited, it made little sense to crack down on a grandmother raising a girl with special needs-especially since all the required paperwork had been submitted.

"Let's get this trial dismissed," Lange suggested. "We both have better ways to spend our time."

The prosecutor agreed. The case was dismissed on May 7 and the grandmother told HSLDA that she was very thankful for our help.



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NDHSA Statement of Faith

We believe in Almighty God, the Author of all creation, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Bible as the inspired, infallible, written Word of God, complete in 66 books and our sole basis of faith and practice; the fallen state of man, guilty by nature and by act and therefore condemned before God; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, except without sin, the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His visible bodily resurrection demonstrating His power over death and sin, His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit when we accept His free gift of salvation by His grace, through our personal faith, and not by any works we can do.

Mission statement

To provide a comprehensive home education information system to support, train and protect every willing North Dakota individual, family and church in the methods of privately funded, parent-directed home education.

NDHSA Statement of purpose

1. Encouraging and assisting Christian families in the education of their children according to Biblical principles;
2. Providing to home educators and the general public information pertaining to the Biblical, academic and legal aspects of home education;
3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

The Eclectic Report

Gail M. Biby, editor

The *Eclectic Report* is published monthly by the NDHSA and is provided free to anyone who asks. The NDHSA is a Christian 501(c)(3) organization funded by the gifts and memberships of interested parties. No substantial part of the activities of the NDHSA is used for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, promote any political campaign, or on the behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Legal issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice concerning homeschooling, contact Daniel Beasley, Home School Legal Defense Association attorney of reference for North Dakota, if you are a member family, or contact an attorney familiar with homeschool law. Any comments or opinions are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff members. Bylined articles ditto! Advertisements likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoolers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at billbivy@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 27 years. She serves on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a women's newsletter for her church guild, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her at: billbivy@msn.com She has been blessed beyond measurability and once had a very long bucket list.

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www.ndhsa.org Instagram link: <https://www.instagram.com/ndhsassociation/>

North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame Inductees

- 2014 Rev. Clinton & Judi Birst, Mark & Lynette Dagley, Dr. Ray & Rita Larsen, Gerald & Sheryl Lund
- 2015 Neil and Chris Toman, Dr. Graef Gannon, Rev. Edward and Sue Huntington
- 2016 Michael Farris J.D., Rev. Thomas & Peggy Patzer
- 2017 Bill & Gail Biby, Morris & Jackie Conklin, Allen & Barb Entzel
- 2018 Linus & Anna Evinger

Prayer Reminders:

ASK God to continue to give wisdom in all governance affairs of the NDHSA to our board of directors: **Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham. PRAISE** God for their faithful service.

PRAY for Christians worldwide. Life can be pretty grim in some parts of the world if you are a Christian; ask God to protect, guide, strengthen.

SUPPORT your local support group in prayer during these summer months and ask God how can help come the new school year.

INTERCEDE for those experiencing indescribable loss of a loved one. Ask God to help them go on...even with joy.

PRAISE God for Home School Legal Defense Association and for our attorney, **Daniel Beasley.**

REMEMBER to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters: it comes down to deny self, take up your cross, follow Jesus.

PRAISE the LORD for good friends and the family of God.

PRAY for your Pastor and his family. Pray for him, his wife, and children regularly and encourage them whenever you can.

PRAISE GOD for homeschooling dads, that God will strengthen their resolve and show them how to lead and participate with devotion and grace.

REMEMBER this: **PRAY** for those in prison. It is a hard life for Christians.

PRAY for grace to avoid sin; to help others caught in sin; to be merciful to the lost.

Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. Eccl. 12:8
The worship of pleasure is slavery. Solomon tried pleasure and found bitter disappointment, and down the ages has come the bitter cry, "All is vanity."

There is no rest in sin. the wicked know nothing about rest. The Scriptures tell us the wicked "are like the troubled sea that cannot rest." Man, like the sea, has no rest. He has had no rest since Adam fell, and there is none for him until he returns to God again, and the light of Christ shines into his heart.

Rest cannot be found in the world, but than god, the world cannot take it from the believing heart! sin is the cause of all this unrest. It brought toil and labor and misery into the world.

D.L. Moody, *Daily Gems*