



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAN FOREST

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RANDOM HOMESCHOOL SEARCHES NEED TO STOP

RALEIGH--RECENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT OF NON-PUBLIC EDUCATION HAS VOICED ITS INTENTION TO RESUME THE 1980S-ERA PRACTICE OF RANDOMLY INSPECTING HOMESCHOOLS ACROSS OUR STATE.

WHEN THE CURRENT STATUTE RELATING TO HOMESCHOOLS (ARTICLE 39 OF CHAPTER 115C OF THE GENERAL STATUTES) WAS PUT INTO PLACE, LESS THAN 1,000 STUDENTS WERE HOMESCHOOLED. TODAY, THAT NUMBER HAS BOOMED TO OVER 100,000 STUDENTS.

"THIS POLICY IS INTRUSIVE, UNNECESSARY, AND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO INFRINGE ON THE CONSTITUTIONALLY-PROTECTED PRIVACY RIGHTS OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NORTH CAROLINA HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES," SAID FOREST.

HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE WARRANTLESS ENTRY BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITHOUT PROBABLE CAUSE INTO THEIR HOMES UNDER THE FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLE I, SECTION 20 OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION.

"HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES SHOULD FOLLOW THE LAW RELATING TO THE KEEPING OF RECORDS AND THEIR LAWFUL INSPECTION, BUT SHOULD NOT BE COMPELLED TO LET ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INTO THEIR HOUSE. IT IS NOT NECESSARY AND PEOPLE SHOULD REJECT IT," SAID FOREST. THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR INTENDS TO WORK WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION IN THE NEXT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CLARIFY WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF NON-PUBLIC EDUCATION MAY INSPECT HOMESCHOOL RECORDS UNDER THE LAW WITHOUT DOING SO IN PEOPLE'S HOMES.

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