



**In re: Admission of Homeschooled Students and
Students from Non-Public Schools into Institutions of
Higher Education (S.841 – Robach/A.43 - Simanowitz)**

Memorandum of Support

Bill S.841-Robach/A.43-Simanowitz would require fair practices by colleges and universities in regard to the admission of homeschooled students and students from nonpublic schools. The bill provides as follows:

The commissioner [of education] shall not require a pupil who has completed the requirements of a home instruction education or a non-public school program, and who has submitted test scores and other admissions material used by post-secondary institutions that qualify the pupil for admission to an institution of higher education, to obtain or submit proof of having obtained a general education development [GED] certificate or any accredited diploma.

The bill further provides that notarized transcripts showing that a homeschooled student or a non-public school student has completed a high school education shall be accepted by colleges and universities, and that such students shall be “admitted on an equal basis with all other applicants, regardless of educational background.” Finally, the bill states that college degrees and diplomas may not be withheld from homeschooled students or non-public school students who have completed the applicable requirements.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent homeschooled students and students from nonpublic schools from being subjected to unfair treatment. Neither homeschooled students nor students from non-public schools should be required to obtain GEDs in order to be admitted to colleges or universities. Furthermore, a student who has been admitted to a college or a university should not be required to obtain a GED before being allowed to graduate from that college or university. Therefore, New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms urges Members of the Legislature to support this measure.