

Workshop PowerPoint Presentations



Can be found here:

<http://hef.org.nz/workshop-powerpoints/>

State of the Nation



What can we be doing?

Prepared and presented by Barbara Smith
www.hef.org.nz

When should we get involved in issues?

We do not want to draw attention to home education and home educators in New Zealand.

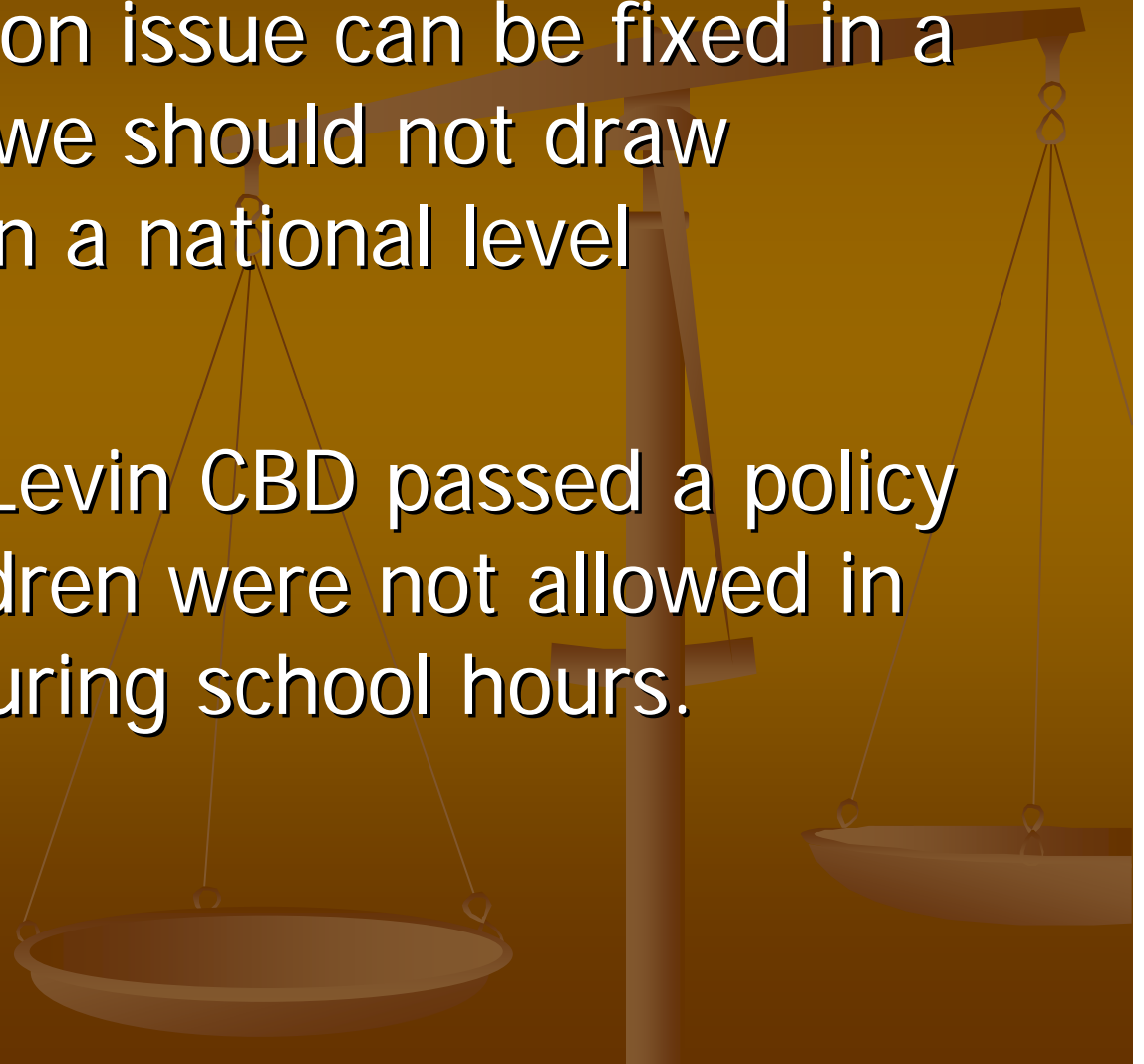
So the question is:
When to speak and when not to speak.

What is not broken does not need to be fixed

So when to act and when not to

If a home education issue can be fixed in a local area then we should not draw attention to it on a national level

e.g. recently the Levin CBD passed a policy that school children were not allowed in the CBD area during school hours.

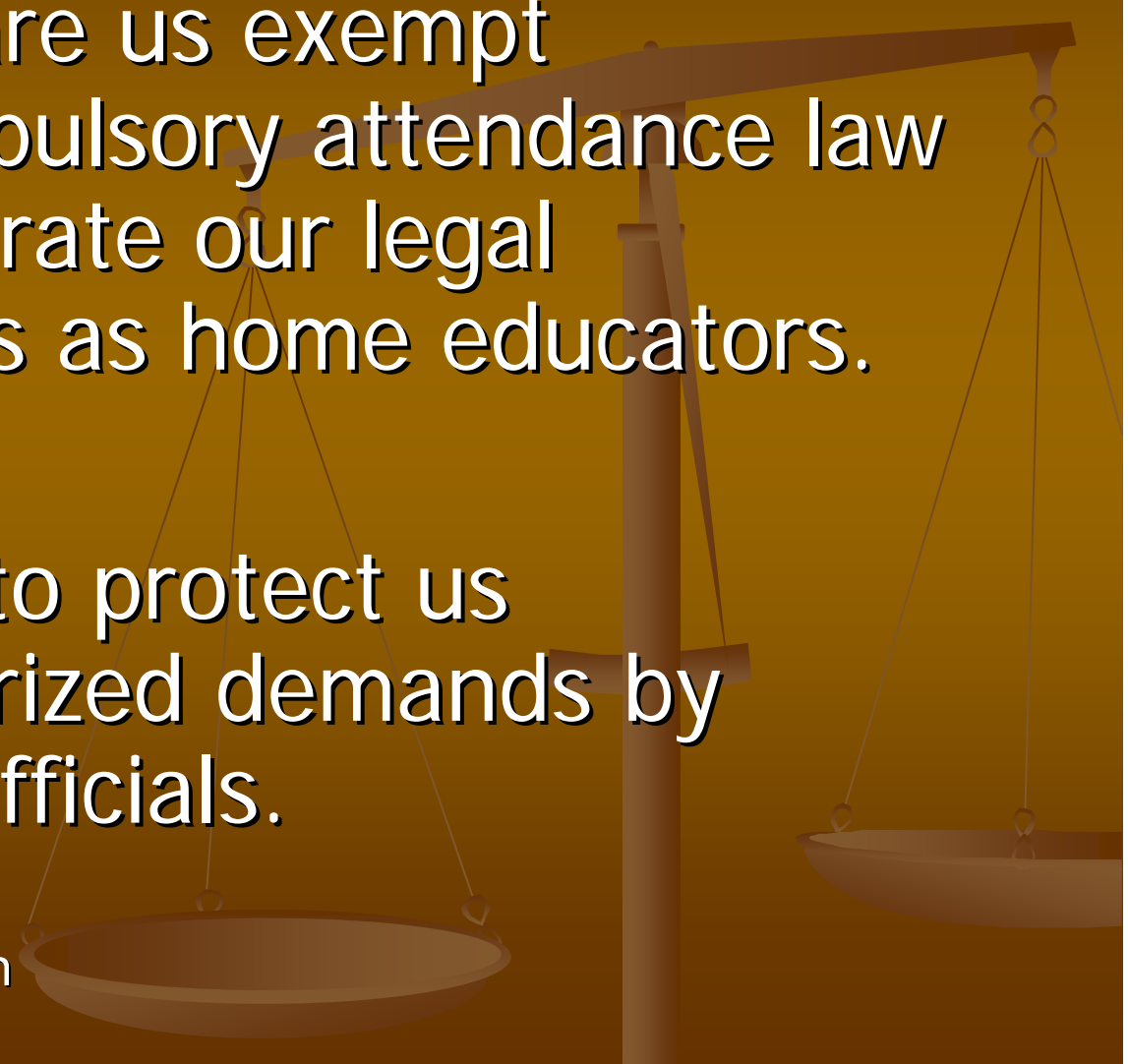


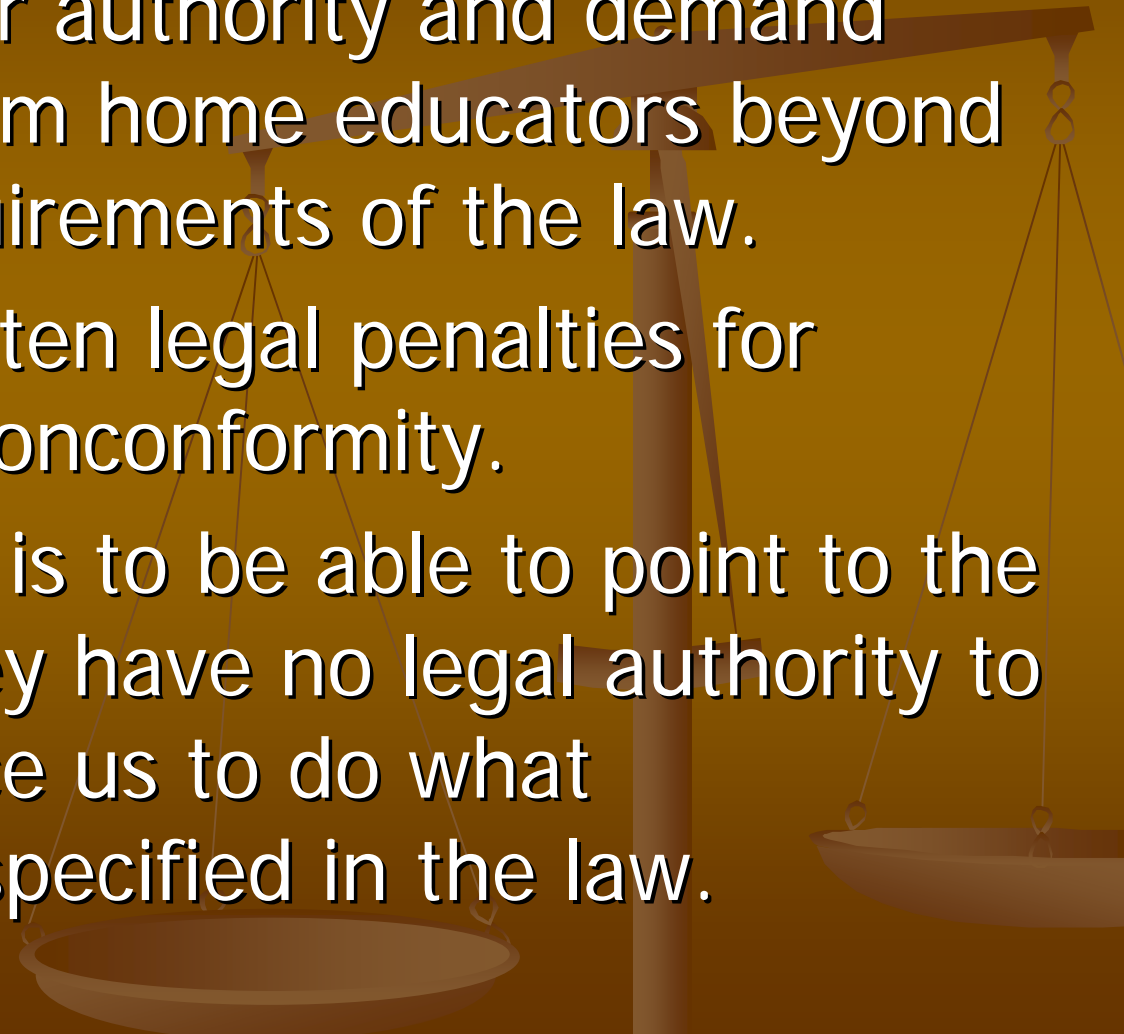
The homeschool law has two purposes.

One is to declare us exempt from the compulsory attendance law and to enumerate our legal responsibilities as home educators.

The second is to protect us from unauthorized demands by government officials.

Rodger Williams - Oregon





For whatever reasons,
government officials occasionally
Overstep their authority and demand
compliance from home educators beyond
the requirements of the law.

They threaten legal penalties for
nonconformity.

Our only defense is to be able to point to the
law and say they have no legal authority to
force us to do what
is not specified in the law.

On a National level

We need to be vigilant in keeping an eye out for what the Government is planning to do.

Craig was good at doing this and getting information out to people in *TEACH Bulletin*.

If you notice something afoot then please contact me, your support group or NCHENZ.

Issues will come up every so often.

Current Issues



We have two at the moment:

- 1. Germans**
- 2. The Social Security (Benefit Categories and Work Focus) Amendment Bill 2012**

Germans



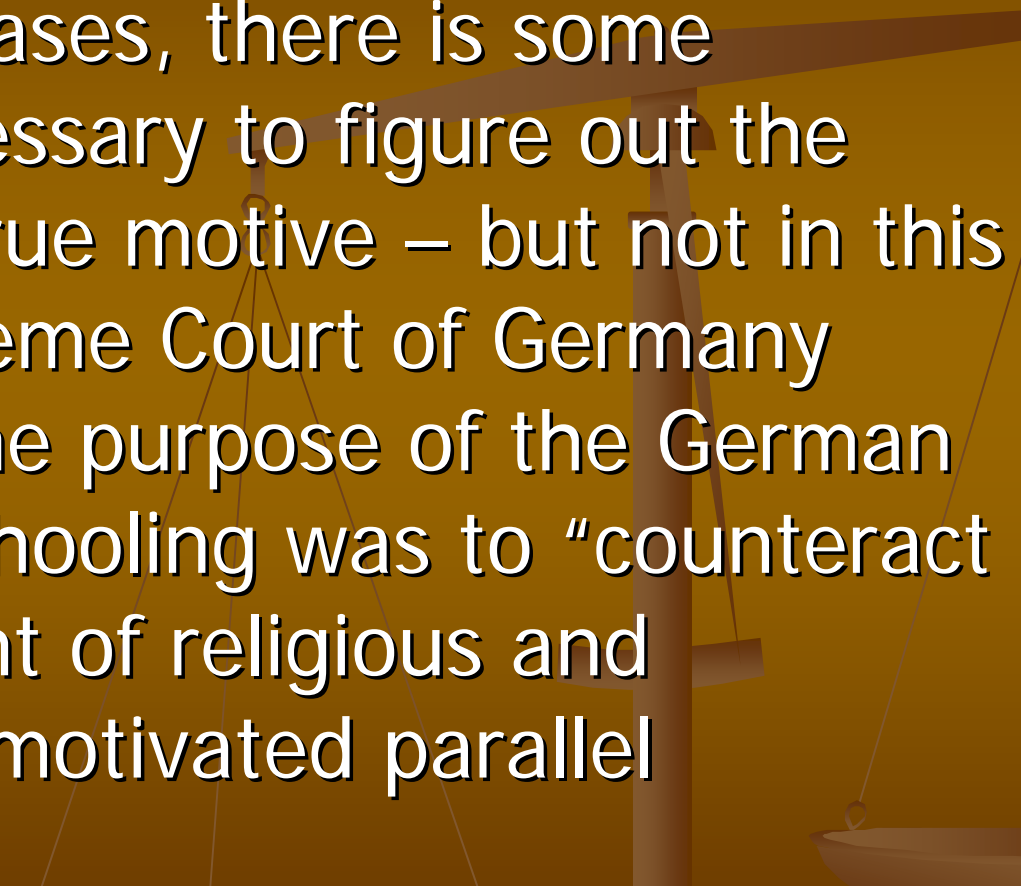
1. New Zealand family – taking low profile
2. USA - Romeike family – taking high profile
3. NZ family refused asylum in 2012
4. USA – Romeike family refused asylum in 2013

German Homeschool Case May Impact U.S. Homeschool Freedom



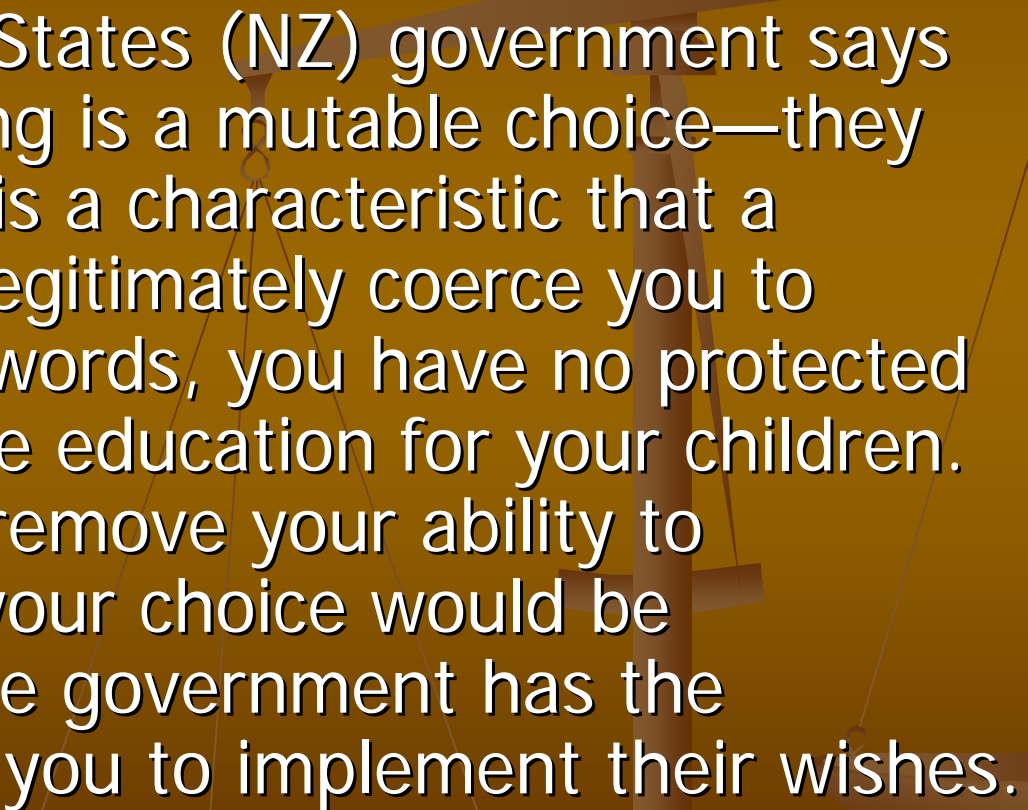
What is Asylum?

The law of asylum allows a refugee to stay in the USA (NZ) permanently if he can show that he is being persecuted for one of several specific reasons. Among these are persecution for religious reasons and persecution of a "particular social group"

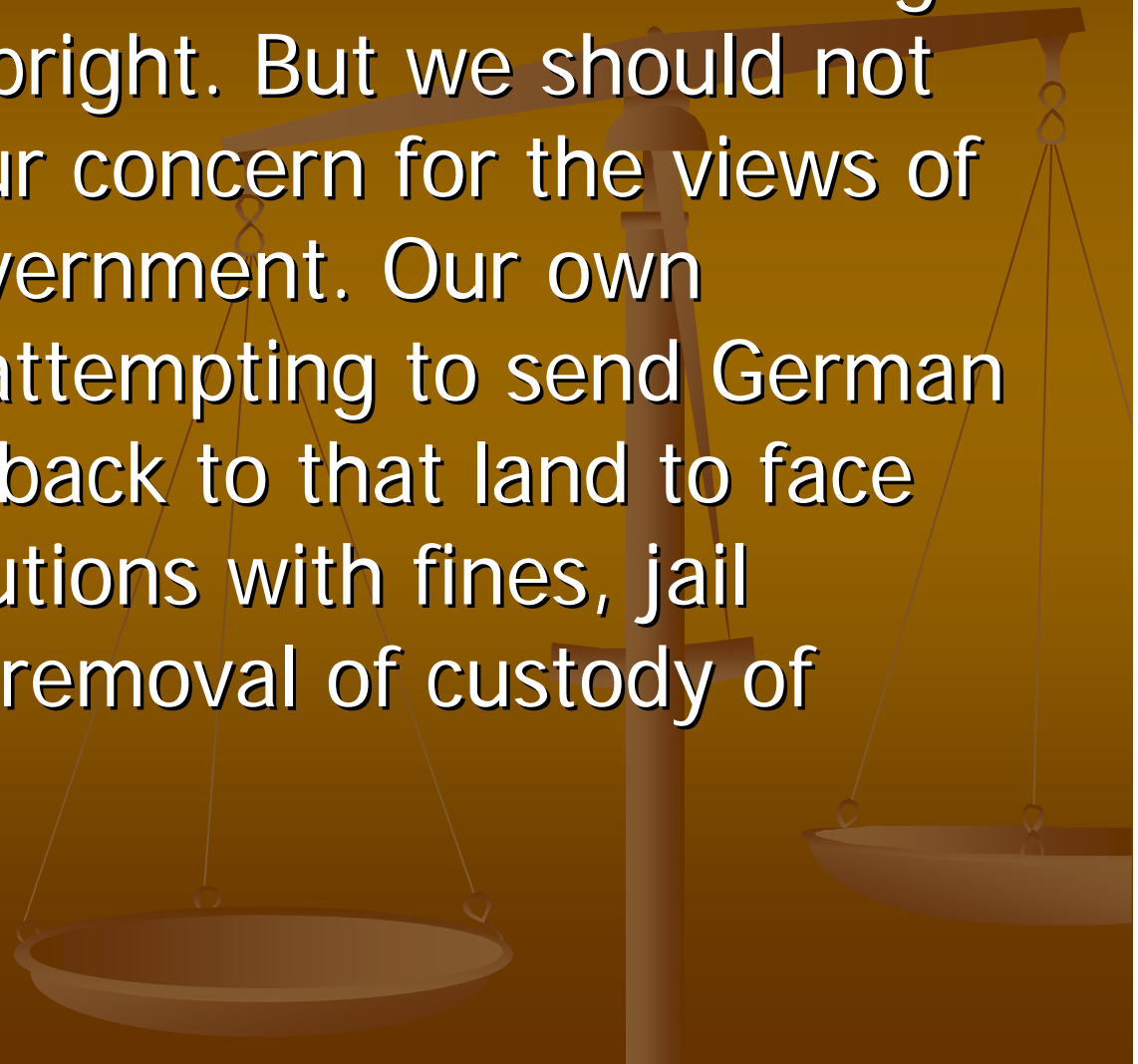


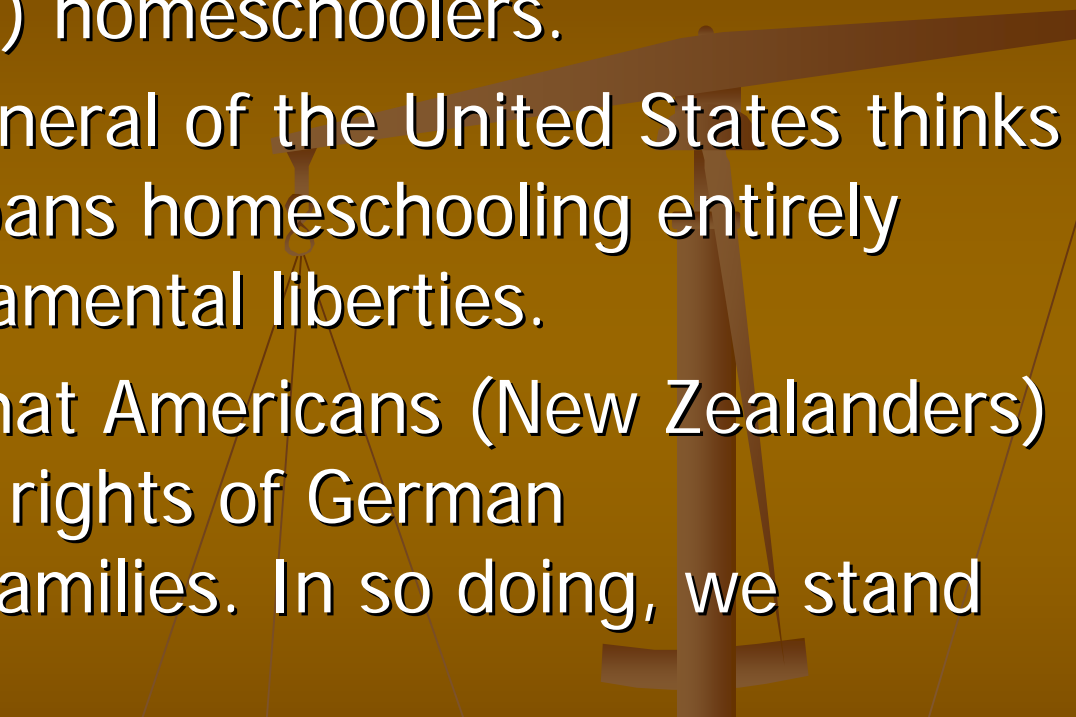
In most asylum cases, there is some guesswork necessary to figure out the government's true motive – but not in this case. The Supreme Court of Germany declared that the purpose of the German ban on homeschooling was to “counteract the development of religious and philosophically motivated parallel societies.”

Eliminating the Right to Choose

- When the United States (NZ) government says that homeschooling is a mutable choice—they are saying that it is a characteristic that a government can legitimately coerce you to change. In other words, you have no protected right to choose the education for your children. Our nation could remove your ability to homeschool and your choice would be mutable—since the government has the authority to force you to implement their wishes.
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- The prospect for German homeschooling freedom is not bright. But we should not reserve all of our concern for the views of the German government. Our own government is attempting to send German homeschoolers back to that land to face criminal prosecutions with fines, jail sentences, and removal of custody of children.



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- We should understand that in these arguments by the U.S. (NZ) government, something important is being said about our own liberties as American (NZ) homeschoolers.
 - The Attorney General of the United States thinks that a law that bans homeschooling entirely violates no fundamental liberties.
 - It is important that Americans (New Zealanders) stand up for the rights of German homeschooling families. In so doing, we stand up for our own.

<http://www.hslda.org/docs/news/2013/201302110.asp>

By Michael Farris, J.D., LL.M.
HSLDA Founder and Chairman

The Social Security (Benefit Categories and Work Focus) Amendment Bill 2012

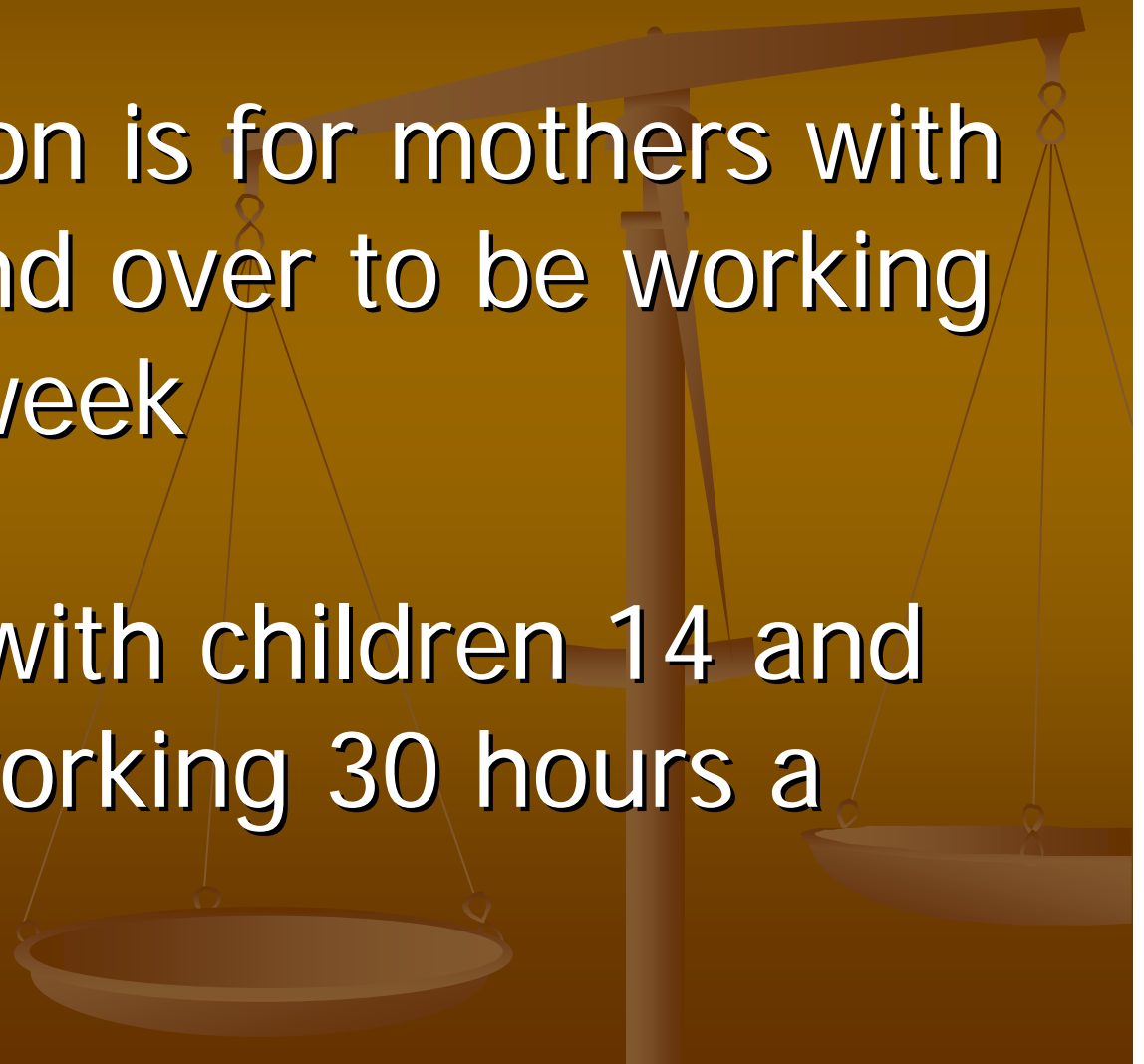
If this Bill is passed then beneficiary children will have to:

- **attend 15 hours a week Early Childhood Education (ECE) from age 3**
 - **attend school from age five or six**
 - **enrol with a General Practitioner**
 - **complete core WellChild/Tamariki Ora checks**
- as well as...

also

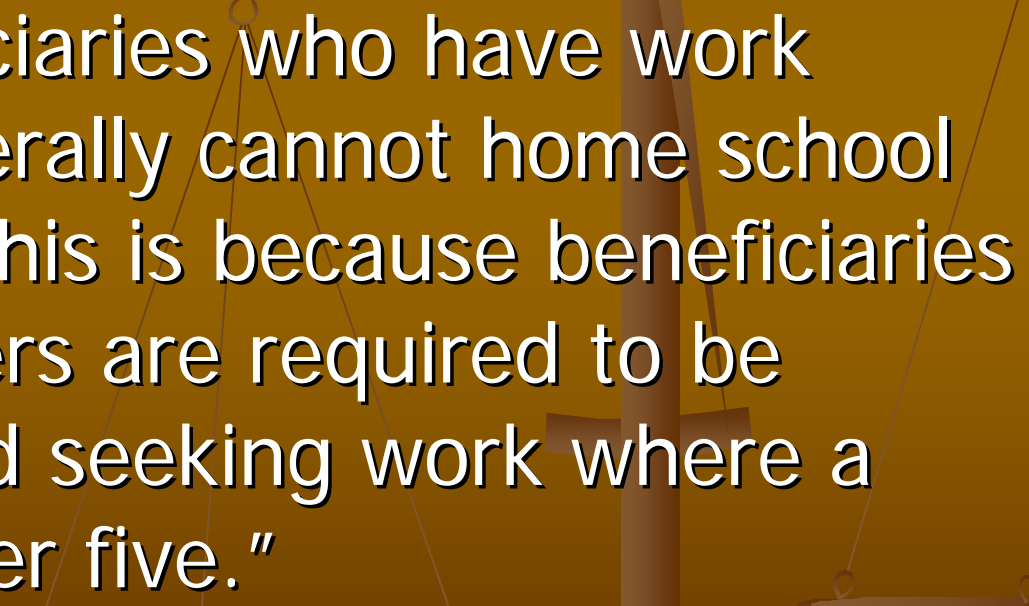
The expectation is for mothers with children 5 and over to be working 15 hours a week

And mothers with children 14 and over to be working 30 hours a week

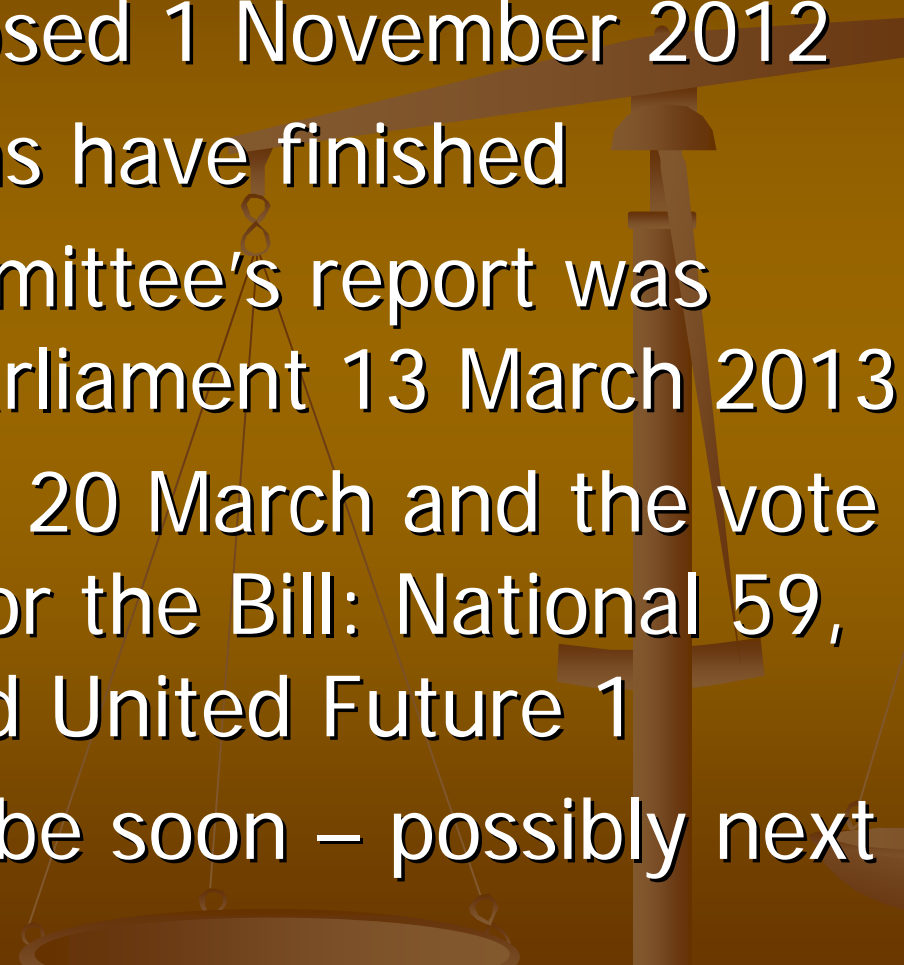


From Paula Bennett's letter to me:

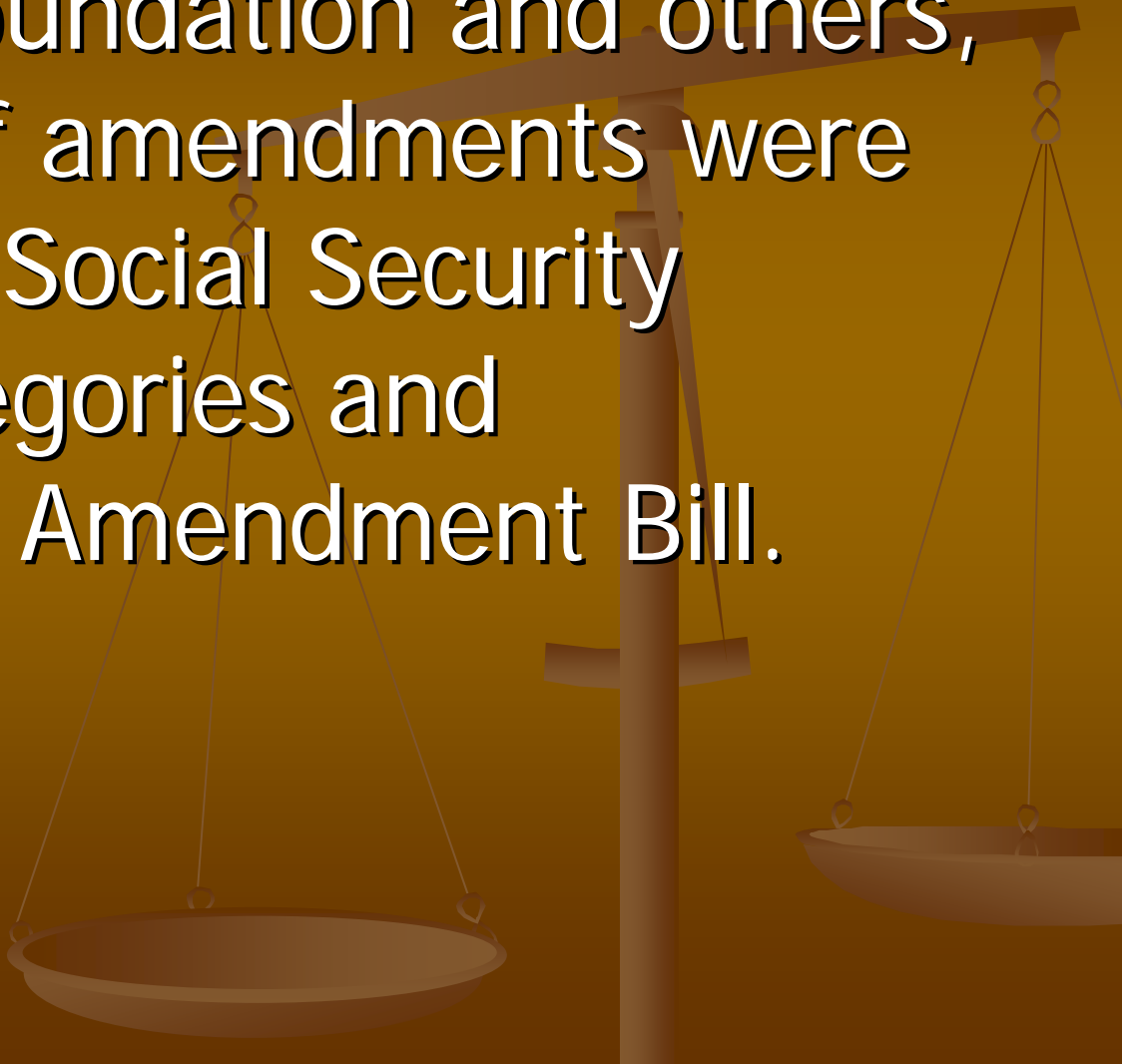
"However, beneficiaries who have work obligations generally cannot home school their children. This is because beneficiaries and their partners are required to be available for and seeking work where a child is aged over five."

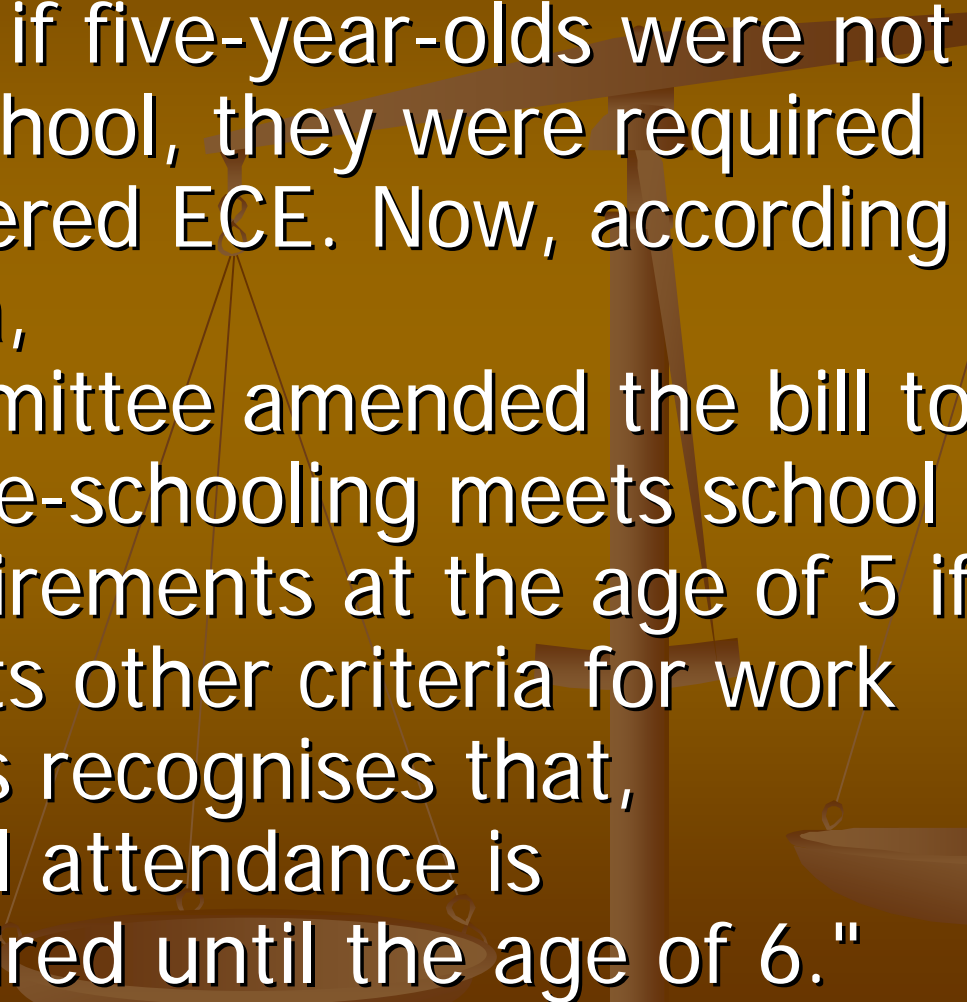


What stage is the Bill at?

- Submissions closed 1 November 2012
 - Oral submissions have finished
 - The Select committee's report was presented to Parliament 13 March 2013
 - 2nd reading was 20 March and the vote 61/60. Voting for the Bill: National 59, ACT party 1 and United Future 1
 - 3rd reading will be soon – possibly next week
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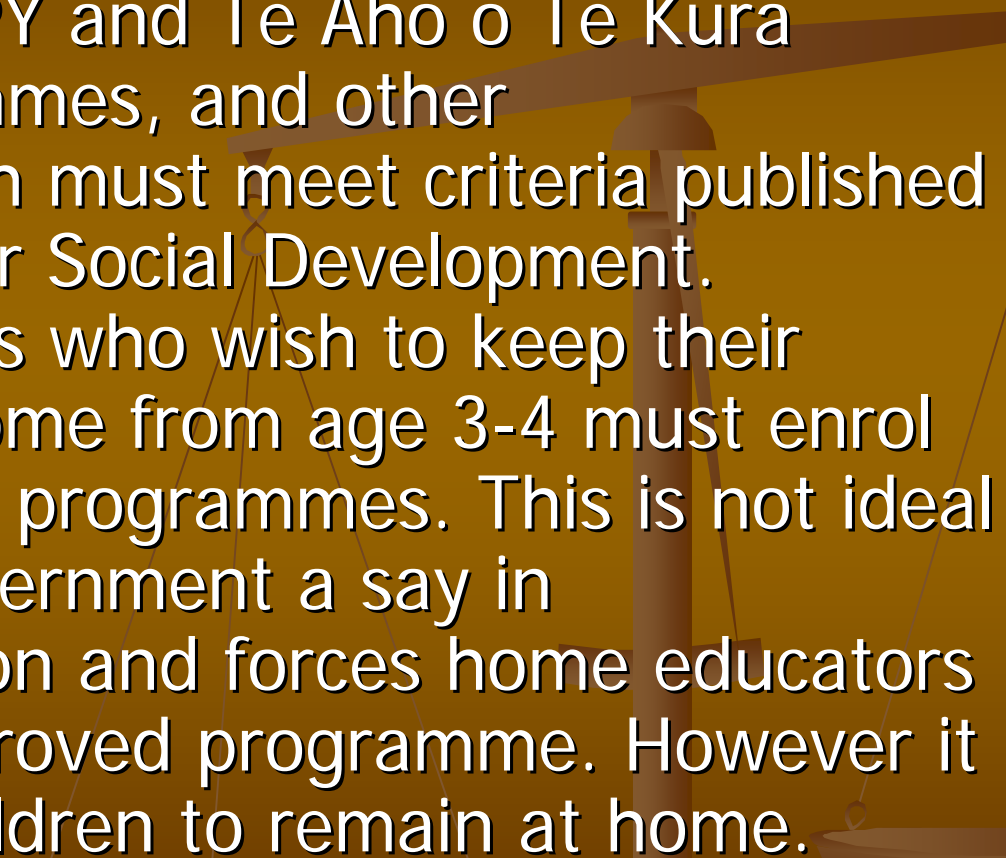
After lobbying from the Home Education Foundation and others, a number of amendments were made to the Social Security (Benefit Categories and Work Focus) Amendment Bill.



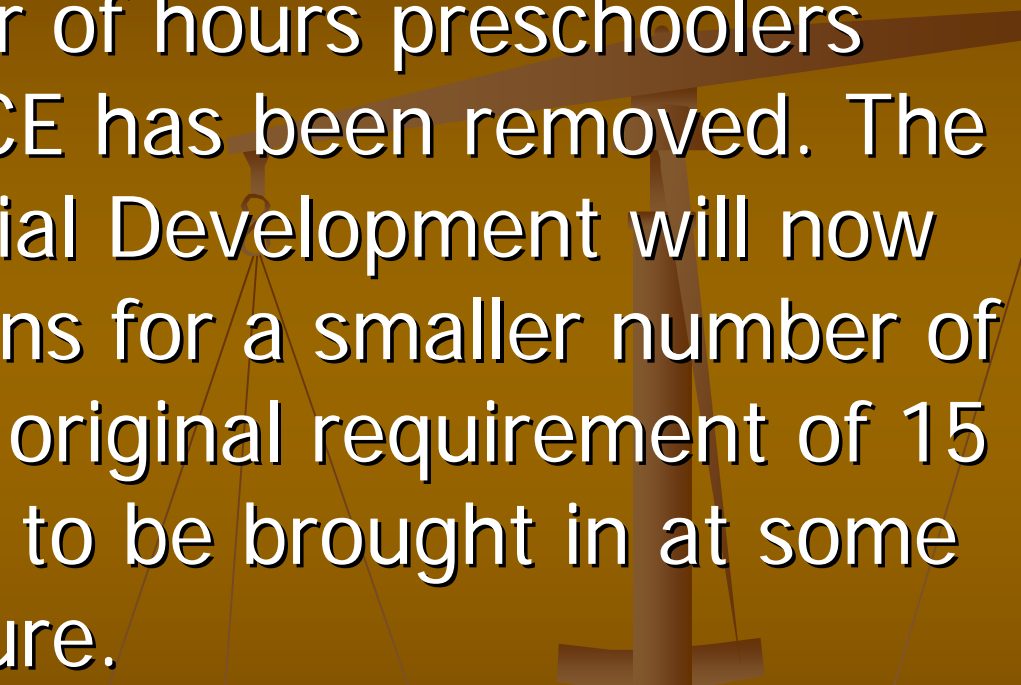


First, the Bill was amended to provide for five-year-olds to be home educated in fulfilment of the Social Obligations. Under the original bill, if five-year-olds were not being sent to school, they were required to be at a registered ECE. Now, according to Sam Lotu-Ilga,

"The select committee amended the bill to clarify that home-schooling meets school attendance requirements at the age of 5 if the parent meets other criteria for work obligations. This recognises that, obviously, school attendance is not legally required until the age of 6."



Second, the Bill was amended to allow "parent-led" ECE options including the HIPPY and Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu programmes, and other programmes which must meet criteria published by the Minister for Social Development. Beneficiary parents who wish to keep their preschoolers at home from age 3-4 must enrol with one of these programmes. This is not ideal as it gives the government a say in preschool education and forces home educators to choose an approved programme. However it does allow the children to remain at home.



Third, the number of hours preschoolers must attend ECE has been removed. The Ministry for Social Development will now make regulations for a smaller number of hours, with the original requirement of 15 hours per week to be brought in at some point in the future.

What do we want to see?

If the

Social and Work Obligations
and Sanctions

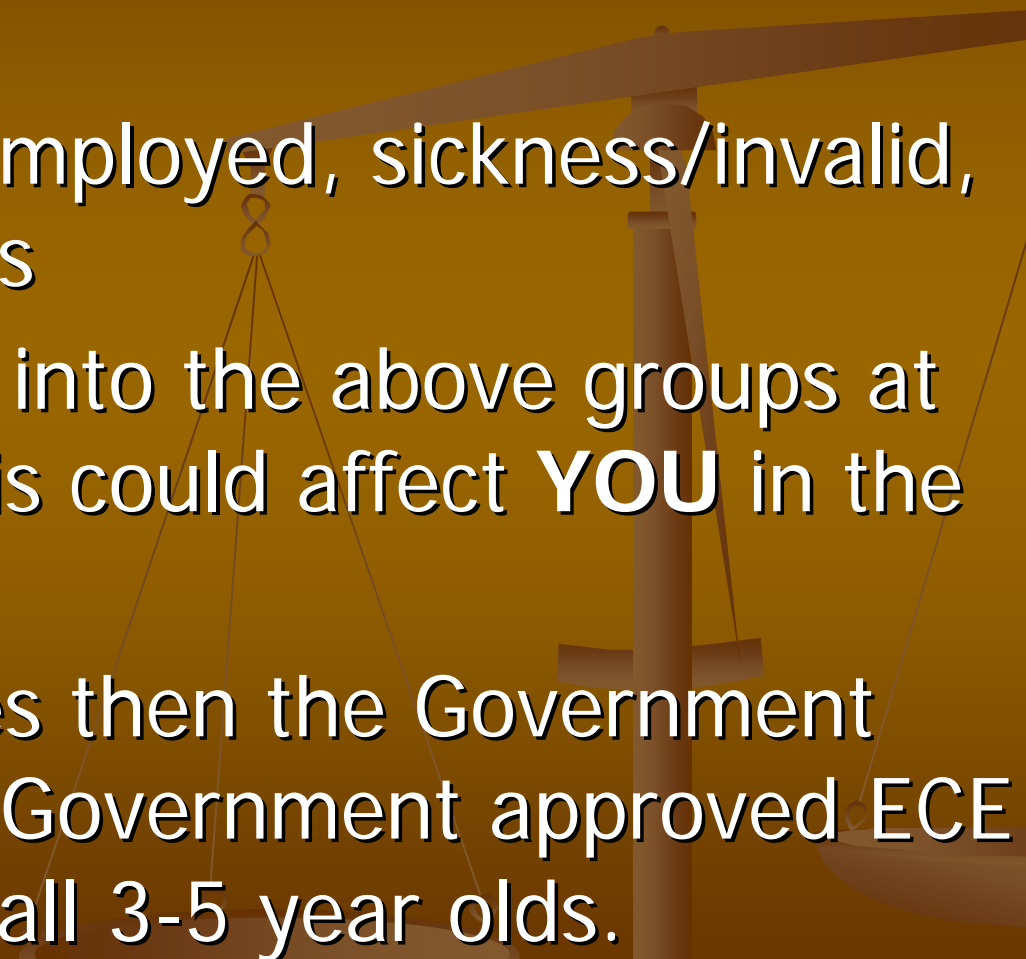
are still in the Bill at the 3rd reading
we would like to see

John Banks (ACT Party) and

Peter Dunne (United Future)

vote against the Bill

Who does this really affect?

- All of us
 - Initially the unemployed, sickness/invalid, DPB and widows
 - Anyone can fall into the above groups at any time. So this could affect **YOU** in the future
 - If this Bill passes then the Government may well make Government approved ECE compulsory for all 3-5 year olds.
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What can we be doing now?

1. Write emails to Peter Dunne and John Banks
3. Ring Peter Dunne and John Banks
4. Visit personally the MP in your electorate

All information at www.hef.org.nz

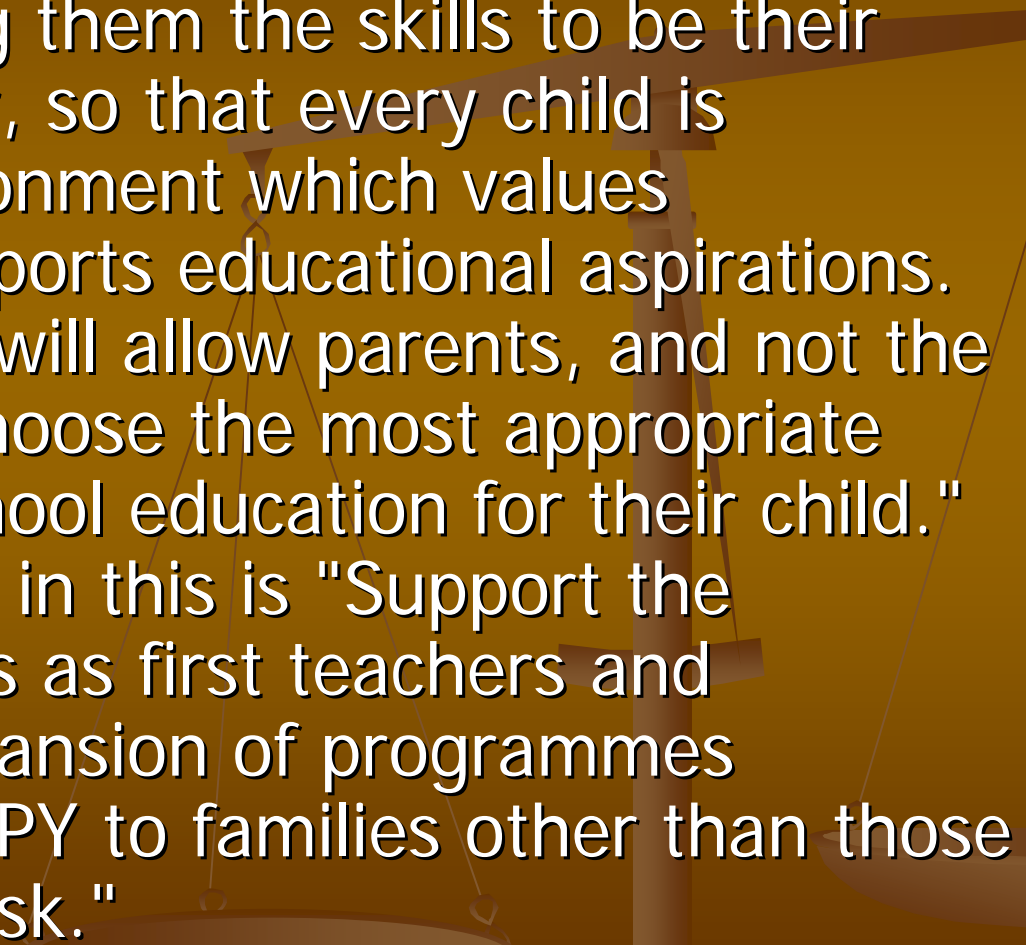
United Future – Peter Dunne



Principles--the party page says

"United Future puts the family at the Centre of its policy making. We regard the family (including wider family and whanau) as the primary unit for a sustainable society."

They also say they believe in "self-reliance, personal responsibility and independence."

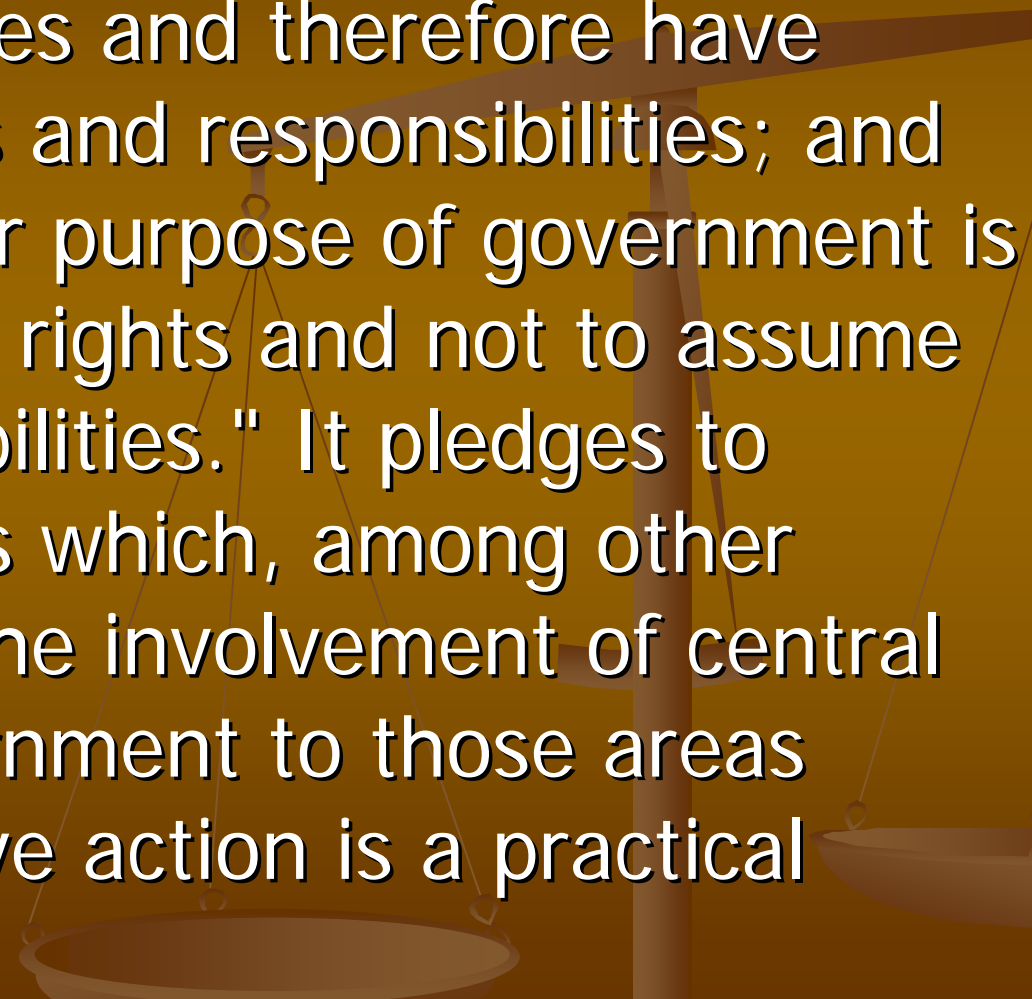


ECE: "United Future believes parents are the drivers of their children's education, implicitly and explicitly and we want to support them in this role, by giving them the skills to be their child's first teacher, so that every child is raised in an environment which values education and supports educational aspirations. It also means we will allow parents, and not the government, to choose the most appropriate provider of pre-school education for their child." One of their goals in this is "Support the concept of parents as first teachers and encourage the expansion of programmes like PAFT and HIPPY to families other than those deemed to be at-risk."

ACT Party - John Banks

His speech on the Social Security Bill supported it from the perspective of welfare reform, with a quote from Margaret Thatcher ('the problem about socialism is that sooner or later you run out of other people's money'):

<http://www.act.org.nz/posts/speech-on-the-social-security-youth-support-and-work-focus-amendment-bill>

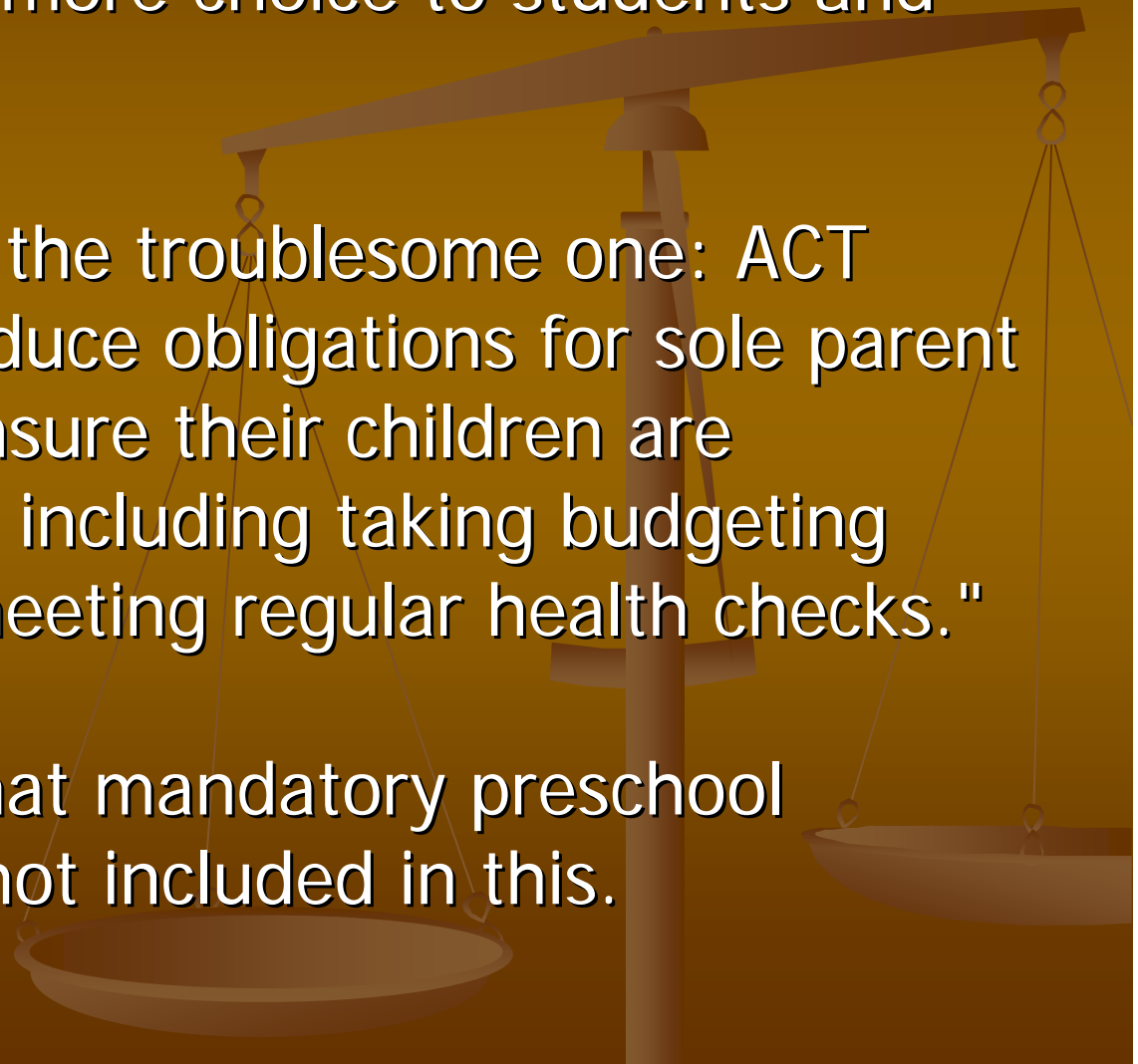


The two guiding principles of the ACT are:
"that individuals are the rightful owners of their own lives and therefore have inherent rights and responsibilities; and that the proper purpose of government is to protect such rights and not to assume such responsibilities." It pledges to support policies which, among other things, "limit the involvement of central and local government to those areas where collective action is a practical necessity."

* Education: "ACT supports decentralisation in education, giving more autonomy to principals and teachers and more choice to students and parents."

* Welfare: This is the troublesome one: ACT says it will "Introduce obligations for sole parent beneficiaries to ensure their children are properly cared for including taking budgeting instruction and meeting regular health checks."

Notice however that mandatory preschool programmes are not included in this.



When you see this photo in an email, on
Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn etc.

Think of this Bill




Human Rights commission



I have a comprehensive complaint into the Human Rights Commission.

I am waiting to hear from them. I will let you know via www.hef.org.nz as soon as I hear from them

What else can we be doing?

- Keep an eye on this website
www.hef.org.nz
 - Please feel free to use my letters to Peter Dunne and John Banks as a guide for your letters and phone calls
- 

Handouts



- Please go to the table with paper and envelopes and a sample letter during the breaks today.
- Please write to Peter Dunne and John Banks rewording the sample letter.
- Please hand your letter to the Home Education Foundation Book Stand.
- Thank you



Home Education Foundation

www.hef.org.nz

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