



T E X A S
HOME SCHOOL
COALITION ASSOCIATION
Keeping Texas Families Free

December 7, 2017

Chamberlain College of Nursing
Department of Admissions
12000 Shadow Creek Parkway
Pearland, TX 77584

To Whom It May Concern:

By way of introduction, let me state that the Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide advocacy organization for home educators, with almost 60,000 families on our mailing list. As the advocacy organization for the state of Texas, we act as a liaison with state and federal agencies in regard to issues related to home education. In fact, the state department of education, the Texas Education Agency, frequently refers calls received by that agency regarding home education to our organization for verification or resolution.

I am writing to you because it has come to my attention that one of our members, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is having difficulty applying to your school because your school admissions department refused to accept [REDACTED] high school transcript due to it being from an unaccredited homeschool program. In addition to this, the admissions department required [REDACTED] to provide a portfolio or [REDACTED] high school curriculum.

Such requirements are discriminatory against homeschool graduates and are out of sync with current Texas education law and with most modern education policies and university admissions practices. Because of this, not only is your university's admission policy harmful to [REDACTED] and other homeschool graduates by depriving them of the opportunity to attend Chamberlain University, but it is harmful to your university by depriving you of the entirety of talent and potential existent within the homeschool community.

To provide some perspective on the enormity of the impact created by this policy, here are some notable facts about home education in the United States.

There are an estimated 350,000 homeschool students in Texas alone and that number is rising. The National Home Education Research Institute reports that **there are 5.7 million homeschool students and graduates in the United States** (as of their 2016 study).¹ This means that there are more students being educated at home than are attending charter schools or traditional private schools. According to data reported by NHERI as well as by the Economist² and many other news and research organizations, **homeschooling is now the fastest-growing form of education** in the country.



Additionally, homeschool students tend to perform, not just well, but often far better than their public-schooled peers on academic examinations. The same study by NHERI found that **home-educated students tend to score “15 to 30 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests”**—a finding that has been confirmed by other studies as well. Many colleges, universities, and companies are actively recruiting home school graduates as they are academic and social leaders.

It should be noted that in Texas, all homeschoolers are unaccredited as are many private schools (see Texas Education Code Chapter 51.9241 as listed below).

By requiring students to hold transcripts from an accredited school, **Chamberlain University is disenfranchising millions of homeschool students nationwide and every homeschool student in the state of Texas**, as well as all private school students who attend an unaccredited school. As shown by the data provided, Chamberlain University risks falling behind other colleges and universities by holding this policy and refusing to accept homeschool students.

Moreover, **Texas law recognizes graduation from a homeschool program as being equivalent to graduation from a public high school.** Texas Education Code Chapter 51.9241 states:

"Nontraditional secondary education" means a course of study at the secondary school level in a nonaccredited private school setting, including a home school.
(b) Because the State of Texas considers successful completion of a nontraditional secondary education to be equivalent to graduation from a public high school, an institution of higher education must treat an applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate student who presents evidence that the person has successfully completed a nontraditional secondary education according to the same general standards, including specific standardized testing score requirements, as other applicants for undergraduate admission who have graduated from a public high school.

As given in the statute above, state colleges in Texas are legally prohibited from discriminating against homeschool students in their admissions policies. Though Chamberlain University is not a state school, this type of discrimination ought to be removed from your admissions policies just as it has been from all state colleges and universities in Texas.

Because your current policy fails to meet the commonly accepted standards prescribed in state law and in order to prevent further discrimination against homeschool students, I strongly urge you to change your policy to allow homeschool students to enroll in your University. Additionally,



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I specifically ask that you recognize [REDACTED] homeschool transcript and accept [REDACTED] for admission to your nursing program for the upcoming semester.

If you would like additional information or to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tim Lambert
President, Texas Home School Association

Sources:

¹<http://nheri.org/ResearchFacts.pdf>

²<https://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21568763-home-schooling-growing-ever-faster-keep-it-family>

CC: [REDACTED] Susan Groenwald, President, Chamberlain College of Nursing; Larry Vensey, Vice President of Admissions, Chamberlain College of Nursing; Office of the Governor; Office of the Lieutenant Governor; Office of the Attorney General; Dr. Raymond A. Paredes, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner; State Senator Kel Seliger, Chair of Senate Higher Education Committee; State Representative J. M. Lozano, Chair of House Higher Education Committee; Texas Homeschoolers