

Undervisningsministeriet
Attn. Ulla Tørnæs

30.11.2004

Dear Ulla Tørnæs,

My name is Mia Zwer, and I am writing to you since I am deeply concerned about the suggested changes in the law regarding the free schools.

I moved to Denmark from Sweden 22 years ago. The only reason I moved was because my oldest son started having troubles in school. It made me very distressed as a parent, and my solution was to move to Denmark with the whole family - 3 children and my husband. The children were then 9, 7 and 4 years old. It was a big change, but knowing about the Danish tradition of free schools, and having found one with excellent results, made me not doubt the correctness of my decision.

My children (now 4) have all gone to the same type of free school (Applied Scholastics School using L.Ron Hubbard's method). They did extremely well - they all have a literacy level which is above average, they all are self determined and creative, leading prosperous lives. I can not say how happy I am that they went to this school.

I have myself worked in the school since 15 years, wanting to contribute to the good cause.

What I see is that the freedom we have to use our method makes us creative and caring, seeing the value of the results. I see it as vital and necessary that this freedom remains - we are doing so much good, and we have helped many students who earlier had a difficult time.

The atmosphere in which we work, with the freedom we now have, is the sign of true democracy, where parents can choose and see for themselves what is best for their child.

I know the hardship a parent goes through when this choice is not there, and I think that anything that lowers the happiness of a family will lower its value to the society as a whole.

Education is a trouble spot in our world. Let's see what method works, look at the results and keep the freedom to create in this area. This is the only way to keep initiative and improvement in this vital area.

Let's keep the wonderful tradition of free schools in Denmark.

Sincerely,

Mia Zwer
Teacher - Amager's International School