

January **Date**, 2024

Dear Delegate **Name** OR Dear Senator **Name**,

I ask that you support HB 222 and SB 76, companion bills that would give churches greater freedom from VDOE intrusion into the operation of their preschools and daycares that operate with a Religious Exemption from licensure.

My church, **name of church**, and our Christian school, **name of school**, are part of the Old Dominion Association of Church Schools. ODACS churches have seen a dramatic increase in VDOE overreach into our Religiously Exempt preschools and daycares in the past year and a half. The most egregious example happened in August at Bethel Baptist Church in Hampton, when a VDOE licensing inspector, overreaching her legal authority, threatened to shut down the summer day camp that the church was operating for elementary age children.

I believe that our church-run preschools and daycares should be able to operate as freely of government intervention as are our Sunday schools, Vacation Bible Schools, and church nurseries!

Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth, and thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Signature