

We are a homeschooling family of ten in southeast Minnesota. Together as a family, we own and operate a fourth-generation dairy farm as well. Our eldest was homeschooled pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and has now graduated with honors. Having already nearly fifteen years of homeschooling experience, we're concerned upon hearing the proposal of changes to be made to the requirements for homeschoolers within Minnesota.

Initially, the thought of having even more paperwork to fill out at the onset of a new school year does not appeal to us, and we're trying to imagine how our superintendent would want more paperwork to deal with as well. The irritation of having extra work – on top of managing the quality education of our remaining seven children, running our own business and household, and the balancing of commitments we have to our church and community – reinforces our opinion that any further paperwork should not be required by homeschooling families.

One of the reasons we chose to homeschool our children many years ago, was so that we could offer them a one on one education, which would be specialized for each individual student. We have some who have learned and picked things up quickly, and others who thrived at a different pace. Across the board, *each* of them has excelled and continues to excel because of this...because we chose not to place an emphasis on the grade, but on the progress and perseverance. While we continue to administer achievement tests each year to our children, having to *report a test score* annually is directly out of sync with the goals of our home education methods.

Finally, making changes to the requirements already in place simply goes against our constitutional rights as parents and, more specifically, homeschoolers. We take our job to educate our children extremely seriously, and firmly argue the fact that we can continue to do so without further requirements placed on us.

Our family personally has never asked for assistance of any kind, financial or otherwise, from the school district or the state in educating our children. At the same time, as landowners, we contribute a very large amount in taxes to the state and district for educating other peoples' children. We feel strongly that as responsible citizens, contributing in a positive way to society, we should have a voice in this specific matter.

Thank you for your time.

Paul and Katie Luehmann  
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