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**Geoffrey and Christina Davies**

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Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 874

To Whom It May Concern,

We have already contacted the authors and sponsors of this bill and now we are writing to **strongly oppose HB874** as it is brought before this informal hearing. This proposed amendment contains language that is obscure and misleading.

We believe this bill is a problem because:

- It makes the state—not parents—the ultimate authority on a child's education.
- It says that “all children have a fundamental right to a quality PUBLIC education.” This would create an unconstitutional preference for public education and would suggest that a child who received a private education was being denied a fundamental right. Down the road, this could lead to the abolition of nonpublic education (private, home education, etc).
- The vague wording of "QUALITY public education" is concerning. How would quality be defined, and by whom...the parents who love their children and want the best for them or the state? That would be a huge governmental overreach and is very troubling.
- What does “fully prepare” mean? Children have different capacities and learn differently. How can the state guarantee a child specific opportunities? The state does not have any way of knowing what the child's full potential is.
- Lastly, the term “democracy” is used in the proposed amendment, but our country and state is a republican form of government as mentioned in the current constitution, not a democracy.

How would giving the child a right that is not in the constitution improve the education? When did parental rights disappear? This proposed amendment would start the stripping away of more parental rights.

Please reject this proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution.

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey and Christina Davies