

Date: Saturday, March 6, 2021

RE: Opposition of HF874

Dear Ms Taken-Holtze,

My name is Karissa Brinkman and I am privileged to be a mother of four children. Educating and raising my four children is so much more than their academic achievement. Though, I think most people would agree we should have a strong educational system in place, developing quality moral character and emotional health are far more important qualities that will improve children's academic performance in any situation. I believe this proposed amendment, HF874 would do nothing that the current constitution does not already provide.

I strongly oppose this amendment and believe it would lay the groundwork for abating parental rights to direct education and open the door for stronger state control of families. I believe this amendment would also diminish the individuality of the child by measuring him/her with a test of conformity to a standard set by the state. I am concerned with the significant change in a state government calling a **"quality public education"** a **"right,"** without any clear definition of who decides or how "quality" is defined. This adequately eliminates the power of parents and local school boards to determine what they want for their own children. I believe it is the parental right to direct quality education and includes the right to choose public, private, religious, or home school, as well as the right to make reasonable choices within the school system for one's child. It is the role of the state to see children are educated, but it is not paramount duty of the state to mandate early education, curriculum, or methodology.

I encourage you to reject the proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution.

Sincerely,

Karissa M Brinkman