

Testimony for the MN House Education Omnibus Bill

From: Rita Lofberg

3/9/2021

Dear Representatives and Committee Members,

Thank you for taking time to hear my concerns.

I am writing in regards to changes in the “Letter of Intent to Homeschool” (reporting) changes for home school students. Specifically, home school student annual test reporting requirement changes and any additional information required beyond what is already required.

I am opposed to this change in the proposed language: “A letter of intent to continue to provide instruction must include a report to the superintendent with proof that the testing plan for the previous year was fulfilled as agreed upon, a copy of the official test scores, and information required in paragraph (a) for each student for the upcoming school year.”

This is a significant step backward for homeschooling freedom in Minnesota. It is contrary to the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction Bill that paved the way for simpler reporting requirements. It would impose unnecessary and burdensome requirements on Minnesota homeschoolers and districts. In 2011, school districts concluded that they did not want to receive and process unnecessary paperwork from homeschool families.

I am concerned that it could provide government officials or other agents with the unconstitutional authority to see our families and our students/children’s private data. We as parents should be the ones who decide how our children are educated and when private information is shared.

Homeschool parents have earned the right to report as outlined in the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction Bill. Please withdraw this language from the Omnibus Bill.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me with further questions.

Rita Lofberg  
Homeschool Parent  
President- Wahpeton Breckenridge Home Educators  
425 10<sup>th</sup> St. North  
Breckenridge, MN 56520  
701-640-6100  
Rita\_Lofberg@hotmail.com