

Testimony for the MN House Education Omnibus Bill

Dear Representatives and Committee Members,

Thanking you for taking the time to read my concerns about the proposed language change in the Letter of Intent to Homeschool, and for considering the impact this change would have on home educating families and school districts.

My specific concerns are about the requirement changes for homeschool student annual test reporting, especially: "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 would be a reversal of the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction Bill that made way for simpler reporting, and would impose unnecessary and burdensome requirements to both Minnesota home educators and school districts. School districts have concluded that they do not want to receive and process this unnecessary paperwork, and this change would be a step backward in honoring the freedoms in place for home educators.

Our family began home educating over 20 years ago. We have launched four children who are responsible adults, working and serving in their respective communities. One has been a successful business owner and is in the beginning stages of launching a second, one is a licensed real estate broker, one has just graduated from furthering her education and is launching a sustainable greenhouse market in her community, and one graduated from a two - year electrical program and is employed as a full-time electrician. We are still home educating our fifth child. We are grateful for the opportunities we have had to educate our children in ways that could be tailored to their specific gifts and aspirations.

The changes being proposed could grant government officials and/or other agents with an unconstitutional authority to see our families' and our students'/children's private data. We urge you to act to protect us from that kind of intrusion.

Thank you for your service to the people of Minnesota and for considering what I have to share.

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