

3/8/2021

Testimony for HF874

(not delivered because of too many public witnesses)

My name is Richard Noe and my wife and I have 8 children that we are currently homeschooling or have homeschooled. I have specific concerns about HF874.

First, in line 1.14 you would give the state new and broad constitutional power to set the “achievement standards” for public, private and home schools by the explicit focus on “all children” (1.11 and 1.12) and deleting “a system of public schools. As Justice Page said earlier today, it “makes the state responsible”.

Second, you leave undefined the phrases “quality public education” and “fully prepares” in line 1.12 and “skills necessary” in line 1.13. You leave the door wide open for the state or courts to interpret these phrases in any way for the perceived good of the children.

As a homeschooling parent, it is my job to determine what is “quality” for my kids’ education. It is my responsibility, not the states, to define what “fully prepared” for the world means and which skills are “necessary”.

I am telling you this for one simple reason: I love my kids more than the state ever could. I want the absolute best for my kids and I am willing to sacrifice to ensure they have every possible opportunity to succeed in this world. I want to teach them to love their neighbors as well as to pay their bills.

HF874 would open the door for lawmakers or courts to take away a parent’s rights to educate their own children based on their interpretation of the “fundamental right to a quality public education” in this bill.

I respectfully ask you to withdraw your well-meaning support for this bill.

Thank you.

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