

Minnesota House Education Policy Committee

Concerning Proposed Constitutional Amendment HF 874

March 8, 2021 1:00pm

Chairwoman Rep. Ruth Richardson

Dear Representative Richardson and Committee members,

As a licensed teacher who has taught in the public schools of Minnesota and internationally in Cameroon, Africa, and as a homeschooling mother, I oppose HF 874.

A constitutional amendment is unnecessary to empower our public schools to provide a quality education to all students, and the wording of the proposed amendment will, in fact, undermine the freedom of educational choice which currently enables quality education.

Minority and low-income students are not suffering a lack of quality education because our constitution is not clear enough. I wholeheartedly agree that each student has a fundamental right to a quality education. I believe the wording of our current constitution supports this. We must look elsewhere for solutions.

The proposed amended wording has the potential to undermine educational choice. To state that all children have the right to a quality **public** education implies that private and home schools may not be fulfilling this right. As a homeschool mother whose children are performing several grade levels above average, and as a homeschool graduate who won a National Merit Scholarship and a place in the honors program of my college, I firmly believe that homeschools provide a high quality education to their students, one that cannot be replaced even by the best of public schools.

Please oppose HF 874 as an ineffective remedy to educational discrepancies in our state and as a threat to the very quality of education it proposes to ensure.

Thank you for your time and your investment in the children of our state.

Sincerely,

BriAnn L. Beck

Bri.beck.10@gmail.com

651-315-0082

600 Quinnell Ave N

Lakeland, MN 55043