

To whom it may concern:

This letter serves as a written testimony to be included in the "virtual committee packet." For the House File 874 Hearing.

My name is Elisabeth Gerdes and I oppose the House File 874 on the grounds of specialized education for my kids! Every public school tries to balance the teacher/student ratio in order to best serve the educational needs of the children. I think everyone would agree that a lower student/teacher ratio is always best.

How about a 1:1 ratio? Can Public schools beat that? Not only do I intimately know the needs of my students, I am able to customize their education to their strengths and weaknesses. I am able to fully support the dreams and interests of who they want to be. Public school could never provide that. I would never expect a classroom teacher to spend the kind of time and care that I spend with my students. The education and attention could not be replicated publicly.

If "*All children have a fundamental right to a quality... education*", then we must agree that quality doesn't always mean public. Quality can look like a 1:1 ratio of specialized tutoring to fine tune the people who these kids want to be.

Thanks for you time,

Elisabeth Gerdes