

Testimony Re: Omnibus Bill, Test Reporting Language submitted by Kay Milbrath, 5128 Eastwood Rd.,
Mounds View, MN 55112 Ph. 763-783-0137

Homeschooling in Minnesota has many distinct and positive aspects. As a semi-retired homeschooling mother of four (my last student is 19, has taken some public school special education classes during high school, and currently attends her local public school's transition program for special ed students), I will present a few that are pertinent to the discussion of the annual required standardized testing and the reporting of such testing: 1) Ability to choose curriculum that meets each student's needs and learning style, and 2) Ability to each day monitor and assist in a student's progress because the teacher is not only teaching and guiding during the day, but also on-call 24/7.

Adding test confirmation from the previous year and test score reporting to the required homeschool letter of intent adds to the public school administrators' workload unnecessarily. Administrators' first concern is the education of the students enrolled in their particular schools. Especially because of the Covid-19 experience, which is still affecting public school students, I believe administrators deserve the time and tools to serve their own students, rather than have to deal with additional paperwork from students for which they are not responsible.

Here is a snapshot of my experience with standardized testing throughout my homeschool career:

- 1) Standardized testing did not give me particular insight into my three sons' progress. They were strong learners and showed me what they knew daily during the school day and from tests and assignments. These three scored well above the state average on the ACT (to give you some idea of how their testing compared with that of public and private schoolers), with scores above 30 in the areas of Reading and English.
- 2) Standardized testing did give me insight into my daughter's special needs, particularly her need for extended time. The actual scores she received were no real surprise, however. Again, the 24/7 on-call nature of the homeschool environment typically means that not much gets unnoticed as far as what the child is learning and how well he or she is learning it.
- 3) Without evidence of rampant abuse re: the current letter of intent testing requirements, or of well-below average ACT scores among homeschoolers (which is, I believe, not even close to happening), why change what is working?

Thank you.