

March 9, 2021

House Education Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Re: Test Reporting Requirements in Education Policy Omnibus Bill

To Whom it may Concern:

I oppose the proposed change to Minnesota state homeschool law as follows:

“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.”

Every year we file an intent to continue educating our children at home form with our district. We file this acknowledging that we are to keep in step with Minnesota law which does require us to have our children take a standardized test yearly. This has been sufficient for the school district we live in and have never received any communication from them stating otherwise.

Why is there a sudden need to provide proof that we have been abiding by the law? More troubling, why do we need to disclose our students' scores that are private data? What evidence is there that these changes are necessary or useful? According to the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill, school districts themselves concluded they did not want to receive or maintain unnecessary paperwork from homeschoolers. In a time where there is so much else to be focusing on in the public schools, why do we need to flood them with additional work and distract them from their students?

Standardized tests are not a one size fits all means of assessment. If they were, Thomas Edison would have failed miserably. He was a poor performer in school, yet he is responsible for so many of our modern day technologies. His mother took over his schooling and we as a nation are blessed by his genius that his school failed to recognize. You cannot judge a person's aptitude nor their intelligence by a test alone as it will not give you an accurate representation of the whole person. Thus needing to supply our districts with our children's scores achieves what?

Again, I completely oppose this proposed change to the Minnesota state homeschool law and urge you to strike it from the omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wedel

