

To My Fellow Minnesotans Who Are Concerned for our Children:

I am vehemently opposed to HF874. It proposes to change the wording of the MN Constitution to wording that disagrees with the Declaration of Independence of the United States.

The MN Constitution is currently worded that “it is the duty of the legislature to establish a general and uniform system of public schools.” Yes! It is the duty of the state to provide access to a quality public education for all students!

The proposed amendment set forth by HF 874 wants to change the concept to, “all children have a fundamental right to a quality public education.” No! Absolutely not! According to the Declaration of Independence, all American citizens have been “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of happiness.

“Quality public education” is NOT one of the rights listed. But “Liberty” is, and one of the liberties that the government should protect, is the freedom for parents to educate their children in the manner that they deem “quality”. By calling a public education a RIGHT, it limits parents’ LIBERTY to choose the best academic/social environment for their children. This is an unconstitutional proposal.

Not only is this unconstitutional, but it would be terrible for our children! The ultimate responsibility for the education of children should rest with the parents/legal guardians of the child. These are the people who are fully invested in the welfare of the child—the people most able to see on a daily basis how the child is doing emotionally, academically, socially. If parents notice that their child is not thriving (pursuing happiness) in one type of school system, they need to have the LIBERTY to choose another option, whether that is home-schooling, private education, or public education. If a public education would one day become the only option for children, they would be locked into a bad situation...no liberty, no pursuit of happiness.

Naomi Tiry Salgado
8854 Inverness Road
Woodbury, MN 55125
Naomi.salgado@gmail.com