

Title: Opposition to HF 874

Letter content: I have many concerns to this amendment. You are sure to hear many others who oppose as well. Since many of those will mention their concern of “all children,” “fundamental right,” quality,” and “public education,” I will not focus solely on these but rather what I personally see as issues. This in no way dismisses the grave concerns of those items already mentioned.

In section 1 of the current constitution, you have “a thorough and efficient system” crossed out. The current system is not efficient! Instead of crossing it out, the system (not the constitution) needs to be redone so those inside are actually learning.

The added “uniform achievement standards” is concerning as there are many skills that are needed in society which can not be tested on paper. Also there is great concern of trying to make everyone the same. Each person is unique and has different talents and abilities which are needed to contribute to our society. If we take that away by trying to make “uniform achievements”, we harm society as a whole by undermining each individual and rob them from thriving.

“Standards set forth by the state.” The state isn’t meeting the standards they have already. Why would you want to take on more? The standards will naturally be higher for each child if it is set forth by the parents of that child. They want the best for their children!

The closer and more directly one is involved with the student/child the higher the care of that individual will be. Whereby the opposite is true.. the further removed, the less concern for the individual will be, and the results will be lower than that of those directly involved. The state is at least four times removed from the direct involvement of the individual student.

As for “quality public schools” the quality education my kids are receiving (at home) far surpasses that which I received from school. They have the opportunity to learn far more than I ever did in Minnesota public schools. These schools are in a continual decline. My children are not only learning what I was never taught, but they have the ability to have their education customized to their interest, and ability, not to mention their individual learning style.

This is the education that each child should have a right to!

The parents have the God given authority to decide what is the best education for their child and no government (wether local, state, or federal,) should be in any position to change that right nor take it away.

Section 2 Submission to voters is much like the amendment itself. Unclear and dangerous at its best, deceiving at the very least.

I oppose this bill and ask that you oppose and/or withdraw your authorship of HF874.

If you want to make the much needed changes to improve the public education system, then do so without changing our Minnesota Constitution and our rights.

The legislature already has all the authority needed in order to provide the public education system in Minnesota with quality.

Marlene Basinski
MN Constituant