

March 9, 2021

To the Committee:

As a homeschooling mother of four, I am writing to oppose the changes to the Minnesota homeschool test reporting requirements in the MN House DE Amendment (Education Policy Omnibus Bill).

The proposed change which would require proof of testing as per the previously reported testing plan as well as submission of test scores would represent a step backward in Minnesota homeschool freedom.

These changes presume that it is the prerogative of the school district or state to track the progress of students who have not been entrusted to their care. It assumes the need for oversight of parents and students by the district instead of recognizing the right of a parent to educate their children without undue burden. There is no evidence that this change is necessary or would benefit the children in question.

Homeschool children test consistently above their public-school peers in yearly standardized tests. The law already requires homeschoolers to test, maintain proof of testing, and so seek help for children struggling in any required educational area.

Why is it being presumed that the district, who neither knows nor loves these children as a parent, is needed to keep track of their testing? The parent, who is putting forth the time, energy, financial responsibility and love needed to homeschool is the only person who needs to see the student's personal data.

Extra paperwork creates an unnecessary burden on both ends for ambiguous reasons. MN law should be about protecting the citizens and their freedoms, not about overseeing their lives when there is no evidence of wrongdoing on the part of the citizens in question.

I strongly oppose this proposed change to MN homeschool law. Parents should be the ones to direct and oversee their child's education and should have the right to protect their private information from anyone not participating in their child's education. Further the school districts have enough work to do with overseeing the testing of their own students

This change is unnecessary and should not be passed. Please oppose this bill.

Sincerely,
Mary Petersen
Moorhead, MN