

March 9th, 2021

Dear Ms. Laura Taken-Holtze,

I'm writing in opposition to the Omnibus Bill in the House Education Policy Committee on Wednesday, March 10, 2021

I strongly oppose this addition/change to the current wording within the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill. This bill is pivotal to allowing parents to choose how they educate their children. For many of us the testing is used to meet state requirements without being a burden on the way we teach our children. Homeschoolers are teaching their children in different sequences, and different manners that do not always lend themselves to results on a test. WE are concerned with the additional requirement of "proof of prior testing plan" and "copy of the official test scores" being given. This can open the door for the schools to evaluate on their own definition of education and not on the parent's right to educate in their own way.

This mandate has no evidence behind it to require a change in how the current standards are applied. It is also contrary to the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill which paved the way to simpler reporting requirements for Minnesota homeschoolers. At that time, the school districts also concluded that they did not want to receive and maintain unnecessary paperwork from homeschoolers - nor do homeschoolers need or want the additional paperwork. We work hard to educate our children with a hands on approach that would drastically change with unneeded extra mandates.

This would be a significant step backward for homeschooling freedom in Minnesota. I believe the government should not have these privileges to see private data on children not within their schools. This would be highly unconstitutional authority that would be given to the school district and higher level government. Parents should be the ones who decide how their children are educated. Please protect our rights to do so. Please do not change the wording to include mandatory reporting of test scores in any form.

Thank you,

Stephanie Ciske

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