

Testimony for Proposed Constitutional Language Amendment HF874

From: Carrie Andersson, Stillwater

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As a parent of three school-aged children, I am concerned with the proposed change to constitutional language regarding public education in Minnesota. Minnesota *already has* a strong system of effective public schools which are available to *all children* in the state. The factors that characterize a “quality education” will not be the same for each and every student; nor should they be. Each student ought to be empowered to reach their own potential instead of being measured against a one-size-fits-all standard.

Parents are the best judge of the needs of their individual children. They should retain their right, and responsibility, to determine what *constitutes* a “quality education,” and *where* to obtain it. Moving control and authority away from parents and local districts, who know their children’s educational needs best, sets Minnesota up for troubling precedents and unintended consequences.

I believe that changing the Minnesota Constitution is unnecessary and harmful. I respectfully ask you to reject this proposal.