

RE: Bill HF874

Date: March 5, 2021

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Thank you for your service to our state as an elected official. I appreciate your time.

It's my understanding that as an elected official you are a representation of the constituents, so as a constituent, I think it's important to share my voice with you so you know how best to represent me in regards to Bill HF874.

I'd like to state clearly that I strongly oppose Bill HF874 and the changes it's trying to make to the MN Constitution. I respectfully ask that you reject this bill.

I have two main concerns, first, I'm concerned about the word "quality."

I would ask you this: Who gets to be in charge of defining "quality?" I would say that the definition of "quality" education would very different from person to person, teacher to teacher, and district to district. My concern is this would open up all sorts of lawsuits wasting time and money, and possibly leaving the definition in the hands of the courts and not in the hands of the legislatures.

Second, I am concerned with the phrase "All children have a fundamental right to a quality public education."

I agree that all children have a right to quality education.

However, I don't agree that that fundamental right needs to state "public education." If a parent decides that homeschool or private school is the better "quality" education, I want to ensure that the freedom to homeschool and/or private school remains protected. My concern is that the words "public education" invites legislation that would take away a parent's right to homeschool or private school their children.

I strongly appose this bill and its changes. I believe that this right is already in full force and effect in the state of Minnesota and therefore it does not warrant a constitutional language change.

Thank you again for your time and for listening to the voices of those whom you are representing.

Sincerely,

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