

To whom it may concern:

As a parent of five homeschooled children, I see the proposed language changes in the Education Policy Omnibus Bill as clearly a step backwards for good education policy in the state of Minnesota. Good education policy reinforces the development and existence of competition within the sphere of education. The obviously limited capacity of parents, who have many other responsibilities, to educate their children is not benefited by further burdening them with requirements that don't improve or help in the education of their children. As such it will decrease the ability for parents to focus and provide actual education, forcing them to waste more time on record keeping. It also does not help the local school districts in further burdening them in tracking and maintaining such records. It wastes physical resources, as well as time and human energy in attempt to facilitate results of spurious and unproven benefit.

For the State to assume the role of dictating what is important and necessary, and attempt to monitor test results, is ludicrous, as their very own education results are subpar in comparison to other education systems around the world as well as subpar in comparison with homeschooled children. In essence, they have no legitimate claim to decide what good measurements of standards are. If claims are made to the contrary, they are made from a hypocritical standpoint.

Additionally, concerns related to privacy are clearly justified. We do not appreciate such private information being made available to people who do not need it, and who could potentially have an interest in acquiring more children for their districts, which translates to more money.

The 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill was a good step forward in helping parents do their jobs in educating their children without the hassle of useless and burdensome "oversight". It also was clear from the districts that they did not want the added work to maintain records. We need to continue in that direction, and not go down paths that only lead to hampering the education of children which must be encouraged by good public policy.

Sincerely,  
Ray Johannessen