

The Honorable Melissa Hortman

Minnesota House of Representatives

MN House DE Amendment (Education Policy Omnibus Bill)

3/10/21

Your Honor,

I, Melissa Olmscheid, reside at 17610 182nd Ave NW, Big Lake, MN in Sherburne County. My phone number is 763-263-2781.

I have been a licensed teacher since 1997 with a dual license in Special Education, Learning Disabilities and Elementary Education. In addition, our family has home schooled for the past eleven years. Having taught in the public schools and home schooled my own children through the years, I have a firm foundation on which to speak concerning the upcoming legislation.

The upcoming legislation proposes:

“A letter of intent to continue to provide instruction must include a report to the superintendent with proof that the testing plan for the previous year was fulfilled as agreed upon, a copy of the official test scores, and information required in paragraph (a) for each student for the upcoming school year.”

I am concerned with the additional requirements of proof of prior testing and providing results of the official test scores. Both the school districts and homeschooling parents have stated that they do not want or need to maintain any more unnecessary paperwork.

As a licensed teacher, I understand the importance of testing to know where our students are at academically. Teachers with large numbers of students must rely on testing. As a homeschool teacher, who works one-on-one with my students, editing their papers and grading their assignments, I am well aware of where they stand academically. The mandated standardized tests provide affirmation, but are not surprising as I work so closely with my students.

While I understand the requirement of standardized testing, providing results of that testing will do no good for my students and will only create more unnecessary paperwork for both home schoolers and the public schools.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Minnesota that the above is true and correct.

Melissa J. Olmscheid