

March 6, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a parent, a community leader and a citizen of the state of Minnesota to voice my opposition to HF 874.

“All children have a fundamental right to a quality public education that fully prepares them with the skills necessary for participation in the economy, our democracy, and society, as measured against uniform achievement standards set forth by the state. It is a paramount duty of the state to ensure quality public schools that fulfill this fundamental right.”

I am not opposed to the state making its public schools the best that they can be. My concern lies in wording such as “uniform achievement standards set forth by the state,” and “fundamental right to a quality public education.”

As a parent of just two children entering kindergarten in the fall, I am already fast learning that they are so different in personalities, strengths and weaknesses and learning styles, a “one size fits all” approach to education is not the answer to fully preparing them to be productive citizens. If that holds true for the children living under my own roof, how much more true is it for all of the children residing in Minnesota?

I have lived in this state for the majority of my life and was educated at different points (depending on my need) in private schools, public schools and home education. Each method was beneficial to my social, emotional and educational needs at any given year, and I am thankful that this state’s laws and constitution protected my parents by allowing them, as the ones who knew me best, to make those decisions for me.

I am concerned that the wording in the above mentioned bill has the potential to usurp the rights of parents to make decisions that are best for their children by forcing them to adhere to an arbitrary set of standards created by a committee who has never even met said children. Annual testing is already required for all students in this state, include those in private schools or those who are home educated. The majority of parents do care and are paying attention to what and how their children are learning, and laws should be made with those who do comply with laws and standards in mind – not those who do not.

I implore you to protect the rights of all Minnesotans to choose a quality education of any kind for their children based on their own needs.

Respectfully,

Leanne Weber
Duluth, MN