

March 7, 2021

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for the time and energy that you invest to better our communities. I am grateful that you care so deeply and that you want the best for the families of our great state. I am writing to encourage you to oppose House File 874 because I believe that it could be a steppingstone to strip away the rights of homeschooling families.

I have a fairly unique perspective on education, and I am writing to you to ask that you would vote to oppose this bill. I come from a long line of educators—my grandparents, mother, husband, aunt, uncle and cousins have all taught in public schools. I myself not only taught in the Centennial School District for 10 years, but I also earned my master's degree from the University of St. Thomas. Education is vitally important to me. When my first daughter was born, she had extremely severe food allergies and this was a major reason for us to choose to homeschool. Later, we were able to see the vast blessings that came from this decision. We invest a great deal of our time, energy, and expertise as educators into our children's education and we are excited about the impact that they will make as adults in the future.

We are asking that you would oppose this amendment because the constitution does not need to be changed in order to improve public schools. That can already be done by working through the Minnesota Legislature, the Department of Education and school districts. I am concerned that although the intentions of this bill may be positive, the effects for groups such as homeschooling families, may be negative. We are concerned that changing the state constitution can have a ripple effect of negative consequences by taking away rights. No one is more invested in a child's education than his or her parents and I urge you to oppose this bill so that these rights cannot be taken away.

Respectfully,
Holly Price