

Testimony for Minnesota Senate E-12 Finance and Policy Committee
Re: HF 874
From: Elizabeth Ann M Johnson, Home Educator

Dear House Policy Committee,

I am a Minnesota homeschooling educator of my seven children. I am writing to oppose passage of HF874, specifically the section:

“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 thankful that my right to homeschool my children was long ago established under the current state constitutional language. This proposed change to the state constitutional language potentially undermines the rights of all families that choose to educate their children outside of the broken public school system.

I assume that the proponents of this language have good intentions to improve the public school system. However, intentions are different than the devastating consequences that poorly written laws can have on the lives of citizens, in this case families and specifically children.

There are better and more efficacious ways of dealing with the myriad of problems devastating the public schools, and amending the state constitution in this way is not one of them. I urge all legislators to oppose House File 874.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Ann M Johnson
Mendota Heights, MN