

Attn Minnesota State Legislature:

I am a homeschooling parent who opposes HF874.

I have always homeschooled my children, who are now in third grade, first grade, and preschool. It has been a great joy to me to be their teacher. My two oldest children are now skillful readers, and I was the one who taught them. It is difficult to put into the words the thrill I felt when each child started sounding out their first words. It will not be long until I will also be teaching my third child to read. It is a wonderful privilege for me to be able to share my love of learning with them. We enjoy the discussions that we have when we read our school books together.

My oldest child recently had her standardized testing. She is in third grade, but in math she tested at fifth grade level. All of her other subjects were right at third grade level. There is ample evidence showing that homeschooled children perform very well academically. Because I only have one child in each grade, rather than a whole classroom full, I am able to give each child personalized attention. I know right away whether they grasp a concept or not. I can move slowly with them through the things that are difficult, and we can move quickly through the things that are easy for them. This is not possible in a classroom.

I have three main goals for my children's education:

- 1) I want them to be able to think through issues for themselves.
- 2) I want them to be exposed to a variety of subjects. While they are excelling in math, science, and reading, they will also be studying history, literature, art, music, and physical movement.
- 3) I want them to develop a love for learning that will follow them for their whole lives. There is a limit to how much a child can be taught in their twelve years of formal education. However, a person who loves learning will spend the rest of their lives seeking it out.

No one loves and understands a child better than that child's parents. I have always been proud to be a Minnesotan, and I hope that the state I love will stand up for the rights of families to nurture their own children.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Adkerson  
North Branch, MN