

Tami Frese
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Minnesota House Education Policy Committee,

I am a home schooling teacher to our four children in my 16th year of home schooling. (Our oldest is currently in college on academic scholarships and in the honors program.) I am writing to voice my opposition to the amendment to the omnibus education bill which would require parents of homeschool students to report standardized testing scores to the superintendent of their school district.

When we home schooled in Nebraska for several years (where standardized testing is not required for home school families) every homeschooling family we knew chose to participate in standardized testing without a state mandate simply so they would be better able to assess where their students were at in their education. There was no need for the state to regulate the testing as they do in Minnesota, nor yet test results, since the parents as teachers are the responsible parties to make necessary changes to achieve better test scores with their students if necessary.

Second, I want to clarify that my students have always scored well above the national averages for the standardized tests they have taken each year. Therefore, my opposition comes not from an unwillingness to test nor from any kind of fear to report our tests scores. I am simply questioning both the validity and the efficaciousness of such a bill. I fear that reporting test scores would add a level of busywork for both home schooling teachers and our department of education that would have no benefit to either.

If the goal of this amendment would be to provide a better education for Minnesota students, I would recommend, instead, making homeschoolers more aware of optional tutoring and educational opportunities that are available for students/parents who may need extra help to bring up test scores. This way we would be working together for the education of children in the state of Minnesota instead of opposed to each other.

Sincerely,

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