

Testimony for the MN House DE Amendment (Education Policy Omnibus Bill)

Opposition to Amendment to Education Policy Omnibus Bill

From: Leanne Overlander

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021

My Name is Leanne Overlander. I am a home school parent and I strongly oppose the changes to the test reporting requirements on the MN House DE Amendment (Education Policy Omnibus Bill).

Specifically, I am concerned with the additional requirement of “proof of prior testing plan” and a “copy of the official test scores.” I do not understand why this new requirement is being introduced at this time. School districts are already heavily burdened with the uniqueness of this year’s pandemic and do not need the extra paperwork. Also, there is no credible evidence to suggest that a change in homeschool standardized testing reporting requirements is necessary or useful.

This reporting requirement is contrary to the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill which paved the way to simpler reporting requirements for Minnesota homeschoolers. At that time, the school districts also concluded that they did not want to receive and maintain unnecessary paperwork from homeschoolers - nor do homeschoolers need or want the additional paperwork.

It is my belief this would be a significant step backward for homeschooling freedom in Minnesota. It would impose unnecessary and burdensome requirements on Minnesota homeschoolers and districts, which are already overworked due to the pandemic. Also, it could provide government officials or other agents with the unconstitutional authority to see private data. I believe that parents should be the ones who decide how their children are educated.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Leanne Overlander