

Re: *MN House DE Amendment (Education Policy Omnibus Bill)*

March 9, 2021

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my concern and opposition for the change in proposed language regarding homeschool testing requirements in MN.

I am a homeschool parent and have been teaching my children at home for the past 12 years. We diligently complete standardized testing each year and keep records of our scores, curriculum, content and progress. I am also involved in leadership in our local homeschool community and know that the other families we homeschool alongside are doing the same thing. I do not understand why there should be a change in the reporting and testing requirements for homeschool families in MN.

Specifically, I am concerned with the additional requirement of “proof of prior testing plan” and a “copy of the official test scores.” There is no credible evidence to suggest that a change in homeschool standardized testing reporting requirements is necessary or useful. Additionally, this reporting requirement is contrary to the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill for 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.***

Please leave homeschool testing and reporting requirements as they are.

Sincerely,

Penny Oleson