

Dear MN Legislative members,

I am deeply concerned about HF874 and the potential it leaves to take away rights of parents to choose the path of education for their children—especially as it pertains to homeschooling and private schools.

I am a mother of four children and the administrator (and founder) of a long-time homeschool co-op in North St. Paul. Over the 14 years that have passed since I began our co-op (and the 17 years since I started homeschooling my own children) I have met, taught, and interacted with thousands of homeschool students.

The academic successes, character building, formed personal relationships, and career successes of the students I have met and interacted with have far exceeded my expectations.

99% of the children that come through our non-profit co-op are bright, kind, confident, caring children with compassionate hearts and a drive for success—and for helping others succeed.

Homeschooling gives students something public education can never give:

- The lowest student/teacher ratios
- Customizable education based on the child's gifts/talents/learning style
- A teacher that cares more about their students than anyone else could: their parent

This type of educational foundation is tough to surpass in terms of quality education for a student. In fact, a recent Admissionly article stated:

In Spring 2019, in the US, the grade K-12 students constituted of 2.5 million children who opted for homeschooling. If we observe the trend in the last few years, there is an annual homeschooling growth rate by 2%-8%.

There's no denying that for most students, homeschooling gives them a foundation that breeds optimal success.

America was founded on the basis of FREEDOM. And passing a bill that has an underlying tone that threatens to take away our freedoms is unacceptable.

I strongly oppose this legislation and hope that you will rethink this travesty of a bill.

Kindest regards,

Laurie Blank

Taylors Falls, Minnesota