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Laura Taken-Holtze

RE:: MN House DE Amendment (Education Policy Omnibus Bill)

March 10, 2021

Dear MN Legislature,

We strongly oppose this proposed language. Specifically, we are concerned with the additional requirement of “proof of prior testing plan” and a “copy of the official test scores.” We are not clear why this onerous new requirement is being reintroduced. There is no credible evidence to suggest that a change in homeschool standardized testing reporting requirements is necessary or useful. Plus, 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.

This would be a significant step backward for homeschooling freedom in Minnesota. It would impose unnecessary and burdensome requirements on Minnesota homeschoolers and districts. And, it could provide government officials or other agents with the unconstitutional authority to see private data. Parents should be the ones who decide how their children are educated.

Thank you for your review of this important matter and for your understanding of home schoolers such as ourselves concerns and parental rights relating to their children’s education as it relates to the verbiage being proposed as described.

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Sincerely,

Sheena Haverty

Homeschooling parent