

March 9, 2021

To the Committee:

As the father of a family who homeschools, I am writing to oppose the changes to the Minnesota homeschool test reporting requirements in the MN House DE Amendment (Education Policy Omnibus Bill).

The law already requires homeschoolers to test, maintain proof of testing, and so seek help for children struggling in any required educational area. The proposed change, which would require proof of testing as per the previously reported testing plan, as well as submission of test scores, would represent a step backward in Minnesota homeschool freedom.

These changes presume that it is the prerogative of the school district or state to track the progress of students who have not been entrusted to their care. It assumes the need for oversight of parents and students by the district instead of recognizing the right of parents to educate their children without undue burden. There is no evidence that this change is necessary nor that it would benefit the children in question.

Moreover, the Minnesota public school districts themselves are already overburdened with educating and testing the students currently enrolled in them. Attempting to stretch them even further – especially during staffing and budget deficits caused by the current pandemic – seems completely irrational. Extra paperwork creates an unnecessary burden on both ends. It will benefit neither the districts, nor the families who homeschool.

Minnesota law should be about protecting the citizens of Minnesota and their freedoms, not about exercising control over those citizens. As an elected representative of the citizens of the State of Minnesota, and as a legislator, you should ask yourselves two very simple questions about the laws and regulations you vote on: 1) Will this ensure or increase the liberty of Minnesotans? and 2) Will this increase the success and prosperity of Minnesotans and the State of Minnesota. Regarding the provisions in this bill related to homeschooling, the answer to both questions is a clear “No.” Therefore, your vote on this bill should be “No” as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Justin Petersen
Moorhead, MN