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March 10, 2021

House Education Policy Committee  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF1081 DE1 – Omnibus Education Policy Bill

Dear House Education Policy Committee:

I strongly oppose this proposed language for homeschool test reporting requirements: *“A letter of intent to continue to provide instruction must include a report to the superintendent with proof that the testing plan for the previous year was fulfilled as agreed upon, a copy of the official test scores, and information required in paragraph (a) for each student for the upcoming school year.”*

I oppose 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. This new reporting requirement is contrary to the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill which paved the way to simpler reporting requirements for Minnesota homeschoolers.

The *“proof that the testing plan for the previous year was fulfilled as agreed upon”* would not allow families to change from one approved test to another approved test based on circumstances and students’ needs. Our family selected the Peabody test when we filled out our letter of intent for 2020-2021. However, given current government mandates, that test was no longer offered in person, instead was offered via Zoom. The ability to change our testing plan based on circumstances and child’s needs without forcing school districts and homeschoolers to fill out additional paperwork is extremely important.

Sincerely,

Kristine Wacek