

Testimony for the MN House Education Omnibus Bill

From: Paula Betz

3/9/2021

Dear Representatives and Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

I have been homeschooling in Minnesota for 16 years. My oldest has graduated Suma Cum Laude from the U of M Moorhead. My son joined the Marines at the age of 17 and continues to serve overseas. Another son is currently preparing to go to college in the fall. I also have 7 children who I am still homeschooling. I have appreciated the freedom and support Minnesota has given to homeschoolers.

My concerns lie with the recent proposed changes in the "Letter of Intent to Homeschool". It is moving backwards from the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction Bill which made reporting requirements much simpler for homeschoolers.

I am greatly concerned about the homeschool annual test reporting requirement changes and other information required beyond what is currently stated on the Intent to Homeschool form. As a homeschooler, standardized tests have assisted me in monitoring my children's progress and areas I need to focus on regarding their education; however, it will not benefit the school district to know my child's test scores and will actually increase their workload.

Therefore, I ask that you leave the Intent to Homeschool form as it is and continue being a state that gives parents privacy concerning their children's education and lessens the paperwork load not only for public school districts but also for homeschooling parents resulting in more time to teach and create life long learners.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,

Paula Betz

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