

From: Karen Martinson <karenleamartinson@gmail.com>

Subject: I Oppose new the legislation

Date: March 7, 2021 at 4:53:23 PM CST

To: Laura.Taken-Holtze@house.mn

Dear legislators, As a 25 year educator of special needs children, I feel It is very important to retain, in a clearly stated way, our rights of choice regarding the education of our children in Minnesota. All parents and teachers should have the right to chose the best educational pathway for their children. We, can't and don't want to, put every child into the same box. How boring, how unfair, and how economically disadvantaging that would be to them and also to our country.

There are so many considerations and means to educate our children as we bring each one to his/her potential. A child's God given talents, their interests and their learning styles are just some of the considerations of parents and teachers as they choose the best educational pathway for a child. Parents and their children, LOCAL communities, LOCAL teachers and elected school boards care the MOST and know and deliver the BEST when it comes to our children's education.

I believe that children are the most important part of our schools - not ideology, not the country's economy and not a conformity mandate. There cannot be a herd mentality toward educating our children in America. Thankfully, the government of the United States of American gives us the freedom to educate and be educated, but it should not be a "helicopter parent" to take away our personal choice of how to do that. I would encourage a "no" on any change to the legislation. Thank you for your attention. Karen Martinson
Sent from my iPhone