

Testimony to Education Committee on proposed HF File 874, new wording regarding education in MN. March 8, 2021

Paul/Becky Lundy – parents of 6 children ages 15-33. We began home educating our oldest son about 23 years ago and continued to home educate all 6. We have 4 biological sons and 2 adopted daughters from Guatemala. 5 of our children have graduated from our homeschool. Our youngest will do so in a couple of years. Among our 5 graduates are a Business Analyst for United HealthCare, A general manager for airline industry, an Information Security specialist for USBank, a 3rd year medical school student, mother, father etc. All are productive adults in part because they had the privilege of being educated in a completely customized, loving, home.

THE ABILITY TO DEFINE “QUALITY” education as we saw fit was crucial to us as we raised our kids. All six are unique individuals with specific struggles, weaknesses and also unique skills, talents and interests. What was a “quality math program” for one child, was less than ideal for another! Because we had freedom to pick and choose, each of our children got what they needed. We worked with at least 3 math programs over the years with just my six children and had the freedom and opportunity to do so “just in time” ...without waiting for someone else’s approval---empowered with a great sense of responsibility and freedom to do what is best for our children. It seems foolish to us to think that a group of legislators and experts can define quality effectively for all the students of Minnesota!

NO ONE LOVES A CHILD MORE THAN HIS/HER OWN PARENTS – parents have intrinsic motivation to love and do what is best for their children. This new wording casts big doubt on that fact.

FUNDEMENTAL RIGHTS- The new wording states that every child has a “fundamental right to a quality public education.” Actually this is in opposition to the MN State Constitution, the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence in which LIFE, LIBERTY and the PURSUIT of HAPPINESS have been universally agreed upon as fundamental rights! When legislators begin to define those things in their own terms—no matter how well intentioned, there is immediate damage done to those fundamental rights.

If there is true concern over the state of public education in the state of MN, and there should be, we respectfully submit that the time, energy and money spent by the sponsors of this amendment would be better utilized by making REAL improvements now---using time, energy and tax money to help classroom teachers, support local school boards and parents who currently use public education for their children. There is nothing in the current effective law that would hinder this.

We wholeheartedly reject the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

Paul and Rebecca Lundy (Wright County)