

To: The House Education Policy Committee

From: Kristin Terres, Wright County

Re: MN House DE Amendment (Education Policy Omnibus Bill)

Date: March 9, 2021

I am writing with concern regarding my right to homeschool my children according to current Minnesota laws. It appears that there is an effort to make it more difficult for families to exercise this right. We just saw the proposed change to the constitution granting children the vague and undefined right to a “quality public education”, which undermines a parent’s right to homeschool their children as they see best. Now we’re seeing a proposal for increased requirements and paperwork which burdens both homeschooling families and schools.

This new requirement of “proof of prior testing” and submission of a “copy of test scores” is a step backward from the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill, which simplified the requirements for MN homeschoolers. Why would this new requirement be added, when it was already determined this extra administrative burden was not worth it? Additional administrative burdens will only serve to deter people from exercising their right to homeschool (and maybe that is the intent.)

Please refrain from increasing the burdens on homeschoolers.

Respectfully,

Kristin Terres