

FROM: NICHOLAS & CHERYL FREITAG

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DATE: MARCH 8, 2021

RE: OPPOSE THE CHANGES TO THE TEST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN THE MN HOUSE DE AMENDMENT (EDUCATION POLICY OMNIBUS BILL)

Opposed Proposed Language: “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.”

Testimony:

We strongly oppose this proposed language. Specifically, we are concerned with the additional requirement of “proof of prior testing plan” and a “copy of the official test scores.” We are not clear why this onerous new requirement is being reintroduced. There is no credible evidence to suggest that a change in homeschool standardized testing reporting requirements is necessary or useful. Plus, this reporting requirement is contrary to the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill which paved the way to simpler reporting requirements for Minnesota homeschoolers. At that time, the school districts also concluded that they did not want to receive and maintain unnecessary paperwork from homeschoolers - nor do homeschoolers need or want the additional paperwork.

This would be a significant step backward for homeschooling freedom in Minnesota. It would impose unnecessary and burdensome requirements on Minnesota homeschoolers and districts. And, it could provide government officials or other agents with the unconstitutional authority to see private data. Parents should be the ones who decide how their children are educated.

Thank you for your review of this important matter and for your understanding of home schoolers such as ourselves concerns and parental rights relating to their children’s education as it relates to the verbiage being proposed as described.

Please Oppose the added verbiage: “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. “

Sincerely,

Nicholas and Cheryl Freitag