

To the House Education Policy Committee:

My name is Alyssa Evertz and I am a former Minnesota public school teacher and am currently home educating my children. This is my public testimony in opposition to the Omnibus Bill. I am opposed to the following statements included in the bill.

“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.”

This would impose unnecessary and burdensome requirements on Minnesota homeschooled students and school districts. It will also mean that government officials and other agents with this unconstitutional authority would be able to see private data.

As Plato said, “A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers.” Many colleges are now adjusting their requirements for submitting test scores for entrance and some are even totally eliminating this requirement. One online article from College Life noted that “there are over a thousand colleges across the US that have changed their approach to emphasizing standardized test scores. Regardless of a pandemic, test optional policies are a growing trend in admissions guidelines, which allow students to decide whether or not to include their SAT or ACT scores in their college application. This lets applicants decide if their scores accurately reflect their academic ability.” (<https://www.collegelife.com/blog/tips/college-not-requiring-sat>)

So why is the Minnesota government adding this reporting requirement for elementary and high school students? Currently homeschooled students are being tested yearly as the law requires. I do not see any value in pushing more paperwork and taking away data privacy of Minnesota homeschooled students.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Evertz
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