

Regarding the Omnibus Bill in House Education Policy, we oppose the bill as written. Specifically, we oppose the amendment to Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 120A.24, subdivision 1, which states:

"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 language requires greater reporting requirements for nonpublic schools and thereby a greater burden of record keeping upon school districts. We feel this would impose unnecessary and burdensome requirements on Minnesota homeschoolers and districts. We understand that previously school districts had concluded that they did not want to receive and maintain unnecessary paperwork from homeschoolers.

Also, 120A.22 Subd.11 already includes this statement:

"(c) If the results of the assessments in paragraphs (a) and (b) indicate that the child's performance on the total battery score is at or below the 30th percentile or one grade level below the performance level for children of the same age, the parent must obtain additional evaluation of the child's abilities and performance for the purpose of determining whether the child has learning problems."

So, there is no need to require the test scores without credible cause. As it says in Amendment IV of The Bill of Rights:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized."

One may think that requiring the test scores is not "unreasonable" but really requiring more and more from law abiding, parents and guardians does nothing more than increase the power of the state over them as the primary educator. When in reality it is parents who have the primary right and responsibility before God to care for their children and educate them. If parents give up that right and responsibility to the state or to any other person, then that right belongs to the new caregiver and educator. Public schools act as that caregiver and educator to those children that have been given to them during their public school experience. Non-public educators have NOT given that right or responsibility to the state. Instead, they have retained it as their own.

Please include this written testimony in your consideration of this bill.

Thank you,

Celeste Herbrandson