

Dear MN House Education Policy Committee,

As a homeschooler for the past 16 years, the potential wording change to the Letter of Intent to Homeschool is concerning. Public school students can opt out of state testing, parents have a choice. Our homeschool students do not have that freedom and now the education committee is asking for the scores of those required tests. The MN Homeschool community and our family strongly opposes 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 at this time. 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. We do not agree with any change to the wording in the Letter of Intent or The Letter of Intent to Continue to Homeschool.

Sincerely,

Cory and Katie Olmscheid

Alexandria, MN