

Submitter: Heather Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3624

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and Committee Members,

As a homeschooling mother, I strongly oppose HB 3624 A.

Firstly, this bill blurs the lines between public and private education. Government integrity is essential. Tax-funds for public education need to remain for their designated purpose. Honoring this boundary encourages public trust.

Secondly, this bill puts the liberties of homeschoolers at risk because of those who accept the tax funds for state testing. Homeschooling parents currently have the freedom to choose a neutral test proctor whom they are comfortable with and a familiar, comfortable setting for their children. Parents have the ability to choose the test version their students will take. Offering “free” public school testing risks setting a precedent for mandatory policies/laws that could strip away these choices. Parents know their children best, and their right to make these decisions must be upheld by civil government.

Homeschoolers are self-governing, independent families who voluntarily take on the responsibility of education. They are capable of planning and setting money aside for the known expense of state testing. Savings is done a little here and a little there, between the grades state tests need to be taken by the student. Self-governing, independent homeschooling families accept this known responsibility.

For the sake government integrity, public trust and liberty of homeschool families I urge you to vote no on HB 3624 A.

Respectfully,
Heather Hall