

Submitter: Jennifer Abercrombie  
On Behalf Of: Independent Homeschoolers  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3624

Hello Senators,

Earlier this year my family and I had the pleasure of being at the capitol to thank you for continuing to vote for our rights to homeschool independently. In fact I stated, "We don't want any money, just the continued freedoms we have as independent homeschoolers." One of my husband's favorite things about homeschooling is that we get to choose what's best for our students. Independent homeschooling works- there's no reason we should be changing it! Please do not vote to fund homeschooling. We are doing just fine without the States money and we don't want it. Have you seen the excellent testing scores in comparison to public and private schools. Do you remember the high quality children standing before you, who shook your hand and looked you in the eye to say thank you for representing us. Please let our homeschooling freedoms remain non- funded.

House Bill 3624 A if enacted, ESDs would be required to provide and administer a free, nationally formed test at the local public school for homeschoolers. Homeschoolers going into a public school, this statement itself doesn't make any sense!

This may sound helpful on the surface, but in reality, it poses serious long-term risks to homeschool freedom.

This bill would normalize the idea that homeschoolers should be dependent on the state.

It shifts more control to the ESDs, in that they choose the test version and where it is to be administered (the local public school) regardless of what's best for the child. Current law protects your right to choose a qualified neutral person to administer the test. This bill adds pressure for homeschoolers to use State-provided services, subtly eroding parental authority.

In addition it sets a precedent for future regulation. Free services today may lead to state mandates and increased oversight tomorrow. We've seen it before: what starts as optional can become required.

Independent homeschoolers should be excluded from any government funding initiatives. As an independent homeschooler I oppose HB3624 A and ask for you to please vote No on this bill.

Homeschool families must retain the right to choose the test version, proctor, and setting that are best for their children. The relatively small cost savings that would be realized under this bill isn't worth jeopardizing those freedoms!

Thank you for your time and service,

Jen Abercrombie

Grants Pass, Oregon

Independent Homeschooling Family