

Submitter:

AL Martin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3624

Our family Opposes HB 3624. We do not want the Government/State to have a say in our children's education (read "Dumbing Us Down" by John Taylor Gatto for more info on why). We especially don't want the liberal-socialist-welfare State of Oregon's input into how we should educate our children. Homeschool families want FREEDOM to choose how to educate their children, including the CHOICE of a neutral test administrator (rather than State-provided services).

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to any proposal that would require or provide State-funded standardized testing for homeschooled children at no cost. While I support educational accountability and high standards for all children, I believe that offering free testing services to homeschoolers at the State's expense is inappropriate, inequitable, and contrary to the principles of educational freedom.

First, homeschooling is a deliberate choice by parents to educate their children independently of the public education system. By doing so, they assume both the rights and responsibilities of providing for their children's educational needs, including curriculum selection, assessment, and funding. State-funded testing introduces an unnecessary level of government involvement and expense into what should remain a private educational path.

Second, offering free standardized testing to homeschoolers can set a precedent for increased government oversight, potentially infringing upon parental rights. What begins as a well-meaning service can quickly become a mechanism for regulation, standardization, and comparison to public school benchmarks—undermining the flexibility and individualized instruction that are hallmarks of successful homeschooling.

Third, using public funds to pay for services for children not enrolled in public schools raises questions of fairness and fiscal responsibility. With limited resources, the State must prioritize its obligations to public school students. Extending taxpayer-funded testing to those who opt out of the public system diverts funds that could otherwise address critical needs in the classroom, such as teacher salaries, special education services, and infrastructure.

Finally, homeschooling families who wish to utilize standardized testing already have access to private providers at their own expense. Many families have chosen alternative forms of assessment altogether, favoring portfolio reviews, narrative evaluations, or other models better aligned with their educational philosophy. State

testing should remain optional and, if used by homeschoolers, should be privately funded as part of their independent educational choice.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reconsider any proposal that offers free, State-sponsored testing to homeschool students. Let us preserve the autonomy of home education and protect public funds for the students and schools most in need.