

Submitter: April Bailey
On Behalf Of: Neskowin Republicans
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3624

Greetings, Senate Committee on Education,

I am a homeschool mother of four (two graduates) and a certified teacher. I am asking that you reconsider the language of HB 3624-A. This language has the potential to be written in the rule making bodies in a manner to undermine current laws regarding homeschooling.

I highly, and humbly, recommend that you consider adding the following, "this bill does not give additional power to public schools or educational service districts to require proof of testing or test results from registered homeschool families as defined in state homeschool laws."

Here is my reasoning:

This bill was absolutely unnecessary. Homeschoolers have adequate and inexpensive (sometimes free from homeschool curriculum providers) access to testing required by state law.

This bill will only add to the expense of the Oregon Department of Education at a time when this department is severely underfunded and is risking all federal funds.

This bill may encourage rule making bodies or misguided school officials to write rules or policies, or act in a manner that is not in accordance with Oregon homeschool law. I have personally seen policies from Oregon School Board Association that are illegal, but school officials were ignorant of the law. Sadly, this is not uncommon for Oregon School Board Association, regional ESDs or superintendents acting in bad faith.

There is no evidence to suggest widespread non-compliance with required testing under the Oregon law among homeschool families. Furthermore, our test results on national-normed tests, as a group, far out perform those of Oregon public school students. Of the hundreds of homeschoolers I have known over the last twenty years I have only know one or two students who tested below average in any competency, and these students passed subsequent tests with some remediation. Clearly, Oregon educational outcomes in the homeschool community are not a part of the degradation of the academic performance of Oregon students—that is found in the public school system.

I would very much appreciate your attention to this matter and am very happy to have conversations with you about my concerns.

Sincerely,

April Bailey
Homeschool parent
Certified teacher
Republican PCP of Neskowin