

Submitter:

Sarah Blankenship

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3624

Please vote NO on HB 3624.

All too often with money comes strings attached. Also with well meaning ideas there are unintended outcomes that follow.

Homeschoolers in Oregon have consistently advocated for the last 30-40 years for educational freedom separate from the government and its funding. Homeschooling families willing took upon themselves the financial responsibility for this decision knowing it was the way to have no strings or at least less strings attached in their pursuit of educational freedom.

HB 3624, while it means to help ease the financial burden of these families, would give government a greater influence over homeschooling families. When considering the cost of home education the testing fees are definitely not the cost factor that would make it too hard financially to homeschool. Instead ESDs offering free tests is much more favorable to local ESDs having more oversight over homeschooler in their area which is something that the advocates of homeschooling freedom have worked against believing that parents have a much more invested desire for their child's education and their future than a far distant government who puts the decision making power into the hands of a few people who have never even met their child. Another concern is that the ESDs are required by this bill to only pick ONE test from the state approved options which would have the unintended consequences of narrowing testing options. The curriculum choices of the Oregon homeschoolers is a very wide variety. One single test offered would not serve a diverse styles of curriculum well. Math curriculum nuances make it such that students could see a problem presented in a slightly different manner they would not know what math operation was being asked. Parents, as their child's teachers, need to have the full oversight of which test from the state list best serves the curriculum they have been using to minimize the issue of not seeing a question in a certain manner before. Also, is it the ESDs choice for what subjects the test covers? Would the ESD test stay just on reading, writing, and math? The government becoming more involved in homeschooling even subtly has a lot of unintended impacts that cause homeschoolers to advocate for educational freedom.

Please vote NO on HB 3624.