

Committee members,

As a school psychologist I oppose hb 3624. I know the requirements for homeschool testing and have proctored homeschool tests. I know that homeschoolers do best in a known environment. An environment that feels comfortable. Testing usually takes 2 days and 4 hours a day. That is a significant amount of time away from their normal schooling environment. Most homeschool families do not want this service paid for as this infringes upon their right to homeschool without government control. There are 4 suitable tests offered to homeschool families. Families should be able to pick the test that suits their educational needs the best. The one that they can understand and interpret for their child. If this bill gets passed it could set precedence that homeschoolers have to be tested by the schools and that parents can't pick the time and place for testing. It would lead to more government intervention in the realm of homeschooling. As an educator, I quit my job to homeschool my children because I saw the flaws in our school system and I wanted to provide my talented and gifted children a more well rounded education. I use the Pearson assessment called Stanford achievement test as it is well normed and is easily interpreted. I do not want the government intervening in my homeschooling. Most states don't even require homeschoolers to be assessed by outside testing. This is a requirement by Oregon that shouldn't be there in the first place. Please do not pass this bill as it sets precedence for future restrictions for homeschoolers. Homeschoolers do not want government help. They want separation from the government system so they can educate their children with what way is best for them. Hb 3624 is a bad bill.

Sincerely,
Brittney Waugh
School Psychologist Eds.