

Submitter:

Stephanie Atkins

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3624

I am opposed to HB 3624 for many reasons. I am a homeschooling mom of 4 and will gladly pay for the state testing my kids are required to do according to Oregon homeschooling laws. My concern with the local school districts paying for it is that homeschooling families do not necessarily teach the same curriculum and are not currently under the jurisdiction of school districts. Once they start paying for testing, the offer would then extend to paying for curriculum and eventually lead to controlling how and what homeschooling parents can teach. The point of homeschooling is to teach our own kids our values, good work ethic, life skills as well as academics. We want to stay independent from government influence so that we can properly tailor our teaching to best fit our kids' needs and guide them into being productive, responsible citizens. I think it is inappropriate at best for an entity that has no authority over homeschoolers to start funding testing for them. Of what benefit is that to the state or the local school district when they are funded in part according to the number of students enrolled? This bill represents the beginning of a slippery slope to dictating what homeschoolers are allowed to do. Please vote no.

Thank you!