

I have two children in the Olathe school district. I am fully informed about the history of how Common Core standards were implemented in Kansas, and I've seen and heard numerous concerns from other parents about the quality of these standards, especially math mechanics.

No matter how you feel about the quality of Kansas College & Career Ready standards, I urge the House Education Committee to support HB2292 so that we can return the control of these standards to Topeka. Do you realize that Kansas now imports its standards, and that these standards are fully developed by an NGO (non-governmental organization) in Washington DC? Do you know that Kansas parents today have no recourse or remedy for changing those standards that they disagree? Our school districts, local school boards, and even our SBOE have no ability to alter these standards today.

Our K-12 school teachers and administrators encourage parents to get involved in their child's education, but when we do get involved in its curriculum or standards, we feel like we are talking to a brick wall because they tell us there is nothing to be done. If, through your actions, the state returns full control of our standards to the Kansas State Department of Education, remedies can be developed so that Kansas parents can have a realistic process for creating change. Today, we have none, and therefore we have lost control of our local education.

Finally, this quote is from our state's constitution article 6 section 5: "When authorized by law, (local school boards) may make and carry out agreements for cooperative operation and administration of education programs under the general supervision of the state board of education, but such agreements shall be subject to limitation, change, or termination by the legislature." The Kansas constitution does grant authority in education to the legislature, not just the SBOE. To those House Education committee members who believe a bill like this usurps the SBOE, I ask --- how can the legislature pass any bill for K-12 education other than related to its funding? If you have supported any non-budget bills in the past, then I urge you to support this bill on the same premise and return control of our education back to Kansans.

Thank you.

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