

To the Honorable Ron Highland, Chair of the Education Committee

- The federal government has made many failed attempts over the years to control different aspects of public education with dismal results
- Common Core is a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to educating children which removes any and all local control. This kind of approach does not allow for an atmosphere conducive to learning and does not make room for diversity in culture, special needs children, advanced children, or unique Kansas needs.
- Kansas was bribed into accepting Common Core, under the lure of federal grant money never received by our state.
- The estimated cost to maintain the burden of Common Core is upwards of \$800 million per year.
- Sensitive data on Kansas students and their families is being gathered which will follow students throughout their school years and beyond. At the very least, there should be prior written consent from parents before such data is collected.
- We need a Kansas solution for Kansas education that allows us to make decisions based on a unique Kansas culture, based on unique Kansas needs, and based on what is best for Kansas.
- Teachers are relegated to role of "facilitator" and evaluated by faulty tests, and retirements are on the rise.

Not to mention the invasion of privacy of the child and families. With Obamacare, privacy has been invading Doctor Visits for two years. I am against anyone teaching my nieces and nephews and grand nieces about sexual intercourse, masturbation and other sexual acts. That is a parent to child discussion and should not be done by a teacher at school. I find this to be both over reaching and home invasive. Please reconsider initiating Common Core in Kansas.

Respectfully,
Jeffrey M. Richardson, Paramedic I/C

--