

HB2292 – SUPPORT – WRITTEN ONLY

February 18, 2015

RE: HB2292

I am writing to ask the Representatives to support HB2292. This bill is fully constitutional. Common Core should have never been implemented without the Legislature's authority in the first place.

My husband and I have three children—two that are in Elementary School and one in Middle School and I have seen the negative impact of Common Core on their education.

Common Core strips all authority away from the State and leaves it with the federal government.

The standards were never approved by the only educators on the validation committee. This should sound an alarm.

One of the backers behind Common Core stated that these standards would only prepare students for Junior College. This is not what I want for my children.

Common Core is funded by companies and organizations that want to profit off of our children. The Legislature needs to put our children first, not lobbyists and corporations.

I have spoken to teachers and even a school district administrator and they all say "we just do what we are told." I was stopped by a teacher in a local grocery store—she saw my "Stop Common Core" button. She said none of the teachers she knows like it. A teacher spoke to me at church about how much she and the teachers she knew thought it was a horrible way of educating but that they won't speak out for fear of retribution. I have ran into several retired teachers and none of them approve. I have a friend that was a prior "teacher of the year." She disapproves. How unfortunate for our children.

Why should Kansas be common? Why not develop high standards that surpass other states, lift our children to a higher expectation and attract families to Kansas because of the high quality of education?

My 4<sup>th</sup> grade son has been so frustrated because of the poor math methodology used. Being asked to draw 81 hashmarks and count *one by one* to determine the answer to 9X9 and drawing *hundreds* of little boxes and count one by one to determine the answer to 10X12 is not sound math instruction. The only reason my son knows his math facts is because I decided to get out the flash cards and teach him myself last year. They spent the first half of the year reviewing what was covered last year (which was not much). I could give many examples of how poor the math instruction is—which is all aligned to support the poor standards.

I ask for you to support HB2292 and restore educational control to Kansas so that we can rise above other states, allow our teachers to teach and parents to be involved in the process.

Thank you,

Kara Thomason