

To the Honorable Ron Highland, Chair of the Education Committee:

I am a Kansas citizen and am writing in support of HB 2292 the Local Control of Kansas Education Act. I am opposed to Common Core 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.

Of grave concern to me is the fact that 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. Teachers are relegated to role of "facilitator" and evaluated by faulty tests, and retirements are on the rise. In addition Kansas cannot afford the estimated cost to maintain the burden of Common Core - upwards of \$800 million per year.

On a personal note all three of my children were educated in Olathe schools and I credit the great success they have achieved as young adults to the fabulous teachers and extremely individualized curriculum that they enjoyed as students. I recall being quite impressed with each teacher's unique approach to facilitating learning and the varied talents and gifts that each one brought to the classroom. Those teachers still deserve to be given the freedom and latitude to teach each child as she/he sees fit. I ask, doesn't that drive the love for teaching?

In closing we need our own 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.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Mrs. Peggy McLoughlin

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