

To: Honorable Ron Highland and Members of KS. House Education Committee
From: Shirley Koehn, 442 Waverly Wichita, KS. 67218 P: 316-260-3224

I am a former Middle School English Language Arts, Remedial Reading and High School Teacher. I now volunteer in elementary Title 1 classrooms (Reading is Fundamental program). I see many of our teachers who are really good, dedicated to lighting that fire of learning, in their students and they love the kids. I also see teachers stressed and hear from teachers who are trying hard to live with Common Core, with excessive, age inappropriate curriculum and long and frequent assessments. Teachers struggle to get lessons taught in a shrinking amount of instructional time.

The teacher shown here, is only one of a growing number of teachers and even administrators who are stepping up in defense of school children caught in the wringer that is Common Core This video is heart wrenching.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2015/01/22/teacher-on-common-core-testing-i-am-a-broken-woman/>

Yes, we already spent a lot of money on Common Core. We are beginning to see the "unseen consequences". The money is spent. We cannot suddenly get it back. BUT, we CAN do what is right for the children, teachers and parents and our country. "Stop Testing our Children to Death" (name of a web site). Repeal and defund Common Core and all its permutations. Teachers know how to give short paper and pencil formative quizzes---those little quizzes that are so useful in determining what needs to be retaught and what is mastered. We can use NAEP for comparative assessments.

Under Common Core, we are creating an environment that results in children hating school. Results of that will not be good. Return control of Kansas Education to Kansans. Federal "carrots" just cost us more in the end. Let it go.

It is time for you to stand up with parents and teachers to defend our children against unreasonable, unproven, top-down Common Core. **Pass HB2292 out of Committee with No Amendments.**

Thank You,

Shirley Koehn