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## TESTIMONY ON HB 2292

Chairman Highland and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you in opposition to HB 2292. As Assistant Legislative Coordinator I have been asked by the leadership of the State Board of Education and others to speak in opposition to deleting the Kansas College and Career Standards. Like you, I've listened to and read testimony and communications from many individuals who have written and/or spoken of their support for or their opposition to Common Core Standards. That includes individuals who do not reside in Kansas who are seeking to influence our decisions. As a former legislator, I also am familiar with legislative organizations which seek to have states implement their suggested legislation which in our case are tweaked to fit the uniqueness of Kansas and thus influence decisions made by the Legislature...much as HB2292 suggests has occurred with our current standards.

**I hope you will consider the following points that are the reason that I rise in opposition to this bill.**

HB 2292 requires Kansas to revert back to the 2003 standards in math and language arts, taking education in Kansas back more than a decade and a half until 2019 when new standards are completed.

- 1) Restoring old standards will cost the state of Kansas additional money, not to mention what it will cost districts and if a standard appears in both the 2003 standards and common core it couldn't be taught.
- 2) In addition, I am hopeful that you will respect local district expenditures and decisions by not requiring them to revisit an era that they have left with an eye toward the future, not the past.
- 3) Revocation of the waiver will result in statewide accountability reverting back to No Child Left Behind and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). **[HB 2292, ironically, requires the state's schools to be controlled by Federal Law.]**
- 4) Assessments in Kansas will be based on the retired standards (of 2003) for which the test engine no longer exists. It would have to be re-established at an additional expense. **[HB2292 also pulls the rug out from under our innovative school districts which are looking at alternative tests to assess students.]**
- 5) The military has indicated their support for having common standards so the soldiers' children who are moved from base to base can count on having some consistency in their education, I wonder how the next realignment will go...will we stand to lose our military establishments which provide a large basis of our economy in Kansas simply because Kansas chose to distance itself from standards that are designed to provide consistency for students whose parents are a part of an increasingly mobile society...Of course, it also could be an issue of whether businesses will choose to move here from any other state as well...they would want the children of their transferred employees to fit into the education system without trauma and if the rigor is less than that expected in other states it is highly likely that for at least four years the State of Kansas would be at a disadvantage. **[Please ensure that education concerns WILL NOT become a negative point when companies are considering moving or adding operations in Kansas or the Federal Government implements the next realignment of bases by voting NO on any bill that disallows the Kansas College and Career Standards to be taught and funded!!]**

In conclusion, I strongly believe that the Legislators and the State Board of Education should be partners rather than adversaries. After all, the same Kansans elected us as elected you and I believe both of us want all Kansas students have every opportunity to be well-prepared for their future. Therefore, I hope we can work together to craft legislation and rules and regulations thus beginning an era of cooperation and communications where we have discussions together and are able to work out differences of opinion in a non-punitive manner. To begin that journey, members of the State Board, the new Commissioner, and the Interim Commissioner have been touring around the state where community members of various ages, careers, experiences, etc. shared what they believed was needed to provide a quality education. We welcome you and the public to go to the KSDE website and share your ideas. In addition, we will be re-writing the standards in a few months so they are ready for approval in 2017, therefore we invite you and all other Kansans to go to <http://standards.ksde.org> and join the conversation about the Kansas College and Career Standards [Math and Language Arts} by reading the standards and sharing with us the standard(s) that you feel need to be changed and how each should be improved.. We will be transparent and share the information gleaned from each of these efforts to engage you and the public in future discussions regarding the education of our students. Thank you again for allowing me to share my thoughts with you and I will stand for questions if desired.

Sincerely,

**Deena Horst**, Member, District 6 and Assistant Legislative Coordinator

Kansas State Board of Education