

March 5, 2013

Dear Kansas House Education Committee members,

As a grandmother of school age children and a taxpayer in Kansas, I am very concerned about the implementation of Common Core Standards in our public schools.

I was present in the audience at the February hearing, where experts from other states spoke about the unforeseen effects of Common Core on their own educational system and their subsequent efforts to extricate themselves from it.

As with so many other federal programs, this appears to be another example of federal overreach, offering 'carrots' of enticement of federal dollars with promises of all kinds but at the cost of our liberty--state, local and individual.

Touted as a superior standard than what Kansas has in place now, which may very well be true as our standards have been repeatedly lowered over the years to accommodate the NCLB and Race to the Top measurements, *it doesn't follow that Common Core would be the remedy*. I very much fear it would be worse than the ailment. For when ever we yield control of local and state oversight to federal management, we lose our voice; our children in this case, would be trapped in an educational system where the curriculum is written, monitored and tested by the few. Even the teachers have little latitude to exercise creativity and initiative in the classroom teachable moments, but instead must 'teach to test'.

But standards and curriculum aside, the part of the design in this federal system has another dark side—the delivery of a back door data bank which would be able to gather 400 points of data that would then be available in a federal data bank to follow them throughout their school years. *Unacceptable*—and it would be unbelievable if we were not seeing examples of that kind of stealth of federal intrusion at so many levels.

I thereby strongly urge you as representatives of Kansan families, to repeal the implementation of CCS in our Kansas schools, despite the short term cost of beginning again. Our children are worth it. Our liberty is at stake.

Respectfully,

Jana Rea