

## **Testimony on HB2289**

**March 21, 2013**

**House Education Committee**

**Chuck Schmidt**

**Superintendent**

**Independence USD 446**

**620/332-1800**

Chairman Kelley and members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against HB2289. Many of my colleagues and I are opposed to this bill for several reasons. First of all, in our state we call these standards the Kansas College and Career Readiness Standards. Allow me to get straight to the point and list the reasons we oppose this bill.

1. It is the responsibility of the State School Board to approve curriculum for the state's public schools. They are elected representatives. Please allow them to do their job.
2. There seems to be a misconception that the Common Core Standards are a federally imposed mandate. This is not correct. Forty-five states, the District of Columbia and four territories have chosen to adopt these standards. The two organizations spearheading this effort were the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Governor Jeb Bush of Florida was one of the leading forces behind this effort. These standards were developed as a result of input from business and industry as well as educational institutions. They were concerned that current standards were not sufficiently preparing students for college and careers.
3. Many schools in Kansas have been working on the transition to the College and Career Readiness Standards for over a year. In our district we have spent time every week understanding the new standards and developing our curriculum to meet the standards. This has been a difficult process but one that has done more to help our staff raise the level of instruction than any professional development we have ever done. Stopping this process would indicate that the past year has been a huge waste of time. That would be a devastating blow to morale in our schools.
4. Little if any state funding is used for the transition to these standards for the simple reason that the state no longer provides any funds for professional development. Most districts are using their federal professional development funds for this purpose.

For the above reasons I ask you to reject this bill. Thank you for your time.

Chuck Schmidt