

Dear Legislators,

Are you prepared to surrender the 100% authority Kansas parents and voters currently possess over the Kansas K-12 public educational standards for a meager 1/45th say in the Governors national cooperative (of 45 states) known as the State's Common Core Standards Initiative? Why in the world would Kansas parents find this acceptable? The answer is; they **would not** if they understood what was at stake.

Currently, Kansas parents could correct any matter related to the state standards **should they chose to**. However, we know that the vast majority of parents and voters are not paying attention to what is going on in the public education system. The fact that they are not paying attention or have chosen not to exercise their authority **should not be construed as a grant of power** to any elected body to ignore their authority or act in a manner inconsistent with protecting their inalienable rights. At some point they may wish to exercise their rights and **it is their rights that must be protected** whether they exercise them now or at some time in the future.

Under the current system, parents and voters concerned with the Kansas standards or curriculum for K-12 education could vote out every member of their local school board and state board of education. They could bring considerable pressure upon the Kansas Department of Education (an unelected politburo) by electing members to the State Board of Education that would no longer act as a rubber stamp for the States Department of Education but would instead exercise their authority over the Department of Education to protect the vested interest of the parents and voters they represent. **Most importantly, parents and voters at present have the ability to replace 100% of those they have elected to facilitate the education of their children in the state public school system.** And **facilitate** is the operative word. The state and/or the public school system are not free to educate our children in any manner that they see fit but are directly accountable to the parents and voters.

Those wishing to commit Kansans to the State's Common Core Standards Initiative will argue the merits of the standards and suggest they are consistent with what we (Kansans) want our children to learn. The **merits of Common Core are a distraction** from the real issue and are a question to be discussed only after parental rights have been considered. The education of our children is an inalienable right reserved to the parent which means that it cannot be transferred or infringed upon. Parents electing to enroll their children in the public school system **HAVE NOT** surrendered their inalienable rights related to the education of their children. Quite to the contrary, parents have protected their rights by creating elected positions for local school boards and the state board of education **that are 100% accountable to them.** Parents have further protected their rights by ensuring that those boards and the Kansas Department of Education must operate in accordance with the statutes and laws created by our elected Legislature.

A shift to the State's Common Core Standards Initiative would place the vast majority of the decision makers **out of the reach of Kansas parents.** No longer would Kansas parents and voters enjoy 100% control of 100% of those making important decision related to the education of our children but would instead have only a 1/45th (2.2%) control of the educational interest of their children enrolled in the public school system. This is because the decisions related to the standards themselves would rely on a

consensus vote of the consortium of states creating the standards. Just what effect will Kansas parents have on an objectionable outcome? **Exactly ZIP.**

Some may argue that Kansas (and by extension parents) have already conceded its authority over public education to the federal government through compliance with objectionable mandates such as “No Child Left Behind” and by reliance on the federal funding offered for public education. The truth of the matter is that parents and voters have yet to realize the irrefutable harm compliance with federal mandates and reliance on Federal funding has rout on the Kansas public educational system. Contrary to their best interest, Kansas parents and voters have failed to exercise their authority over the elected boards and legislature by demanding that they refuse to abide by unconstitutional federal mandates imposed by the federal government or part with the federal monies for public education when the federal government threatens to withhold other funding that they have become addicted too. However, as long as the rights of Kansas parents and voters are protected they may yet come to their senses and outright reject federal involvement in their public education system.

For better or worse, Kansans voted in 1969 to amend our state constitution granting a greater role to the state in facilitating the education of our children. However, we **DID NOT** revoke our inalienable rights in determining the content and scope of that education. And we most certainly **DID NOT** grant an interest in that education to other states or the federal government.

At the heart of this debate is a recognition, that history is replete in recording and that by every measurable means would indicate, that whatever GOOD might be offered or however benign the threat might be presented, acceptance of the Common Core Standards will offer the opportunity for abuse, the presentation of objectionable beliefs and the unadulterated infringement on the natural rights of Kansas parents to which they may never recoup or escape.

As an elected official, each of you took an Oath of Office to defend the Constitution of The United States and the State of Kansas. Before one can even begin to debate the merits of Common Core it is essential that you square your constitutional responsibilities with defending the inalienable rights of those you were elected to represent. Once squared; the correct response to the State’s Common Core Standards Initiative should be clear and **the thunder of a resounding NO** should echo across this great state.