

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2292
Time to Repeal Common Core & Protect Privacy
by
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The State Board of Education adopted the Common Core Standards on October 12th, 2010 for every public, private and parochial school in Kansas without receiving any research to show that they were any better than the existing Kansas reading and math standards. The implementation costs were not known and there is still no evidence that by changing the standards, Kansas students will be better prepared for college or career.

The fact is that the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards are not more rigorous or will teach critical thinking. Good teachers have taught these skills for centuries.

The CCS were developed by Pearson Publishing, Microsoft and McGraw-Hill employees to sell textbooks, testing services, data collection and data mining services. Not only did they dumb-down the standards, but to sell more books, they came up with an experimental process on HOW to teach math which is totally confusing to most teachers, students and their parents.

Then to coerce and force states to adopt these watered down standards, the US Department of Education offered \$4.3 billion of RTTT grant money to any state who adopted the CCS as a precondition for even applying for these funds. Kansas applied for a RTTT grant but has not received a dime. Then the USDOE forced our state to include the CCS to receive a NCLB waiver—but added 40 more expensive requirements which the State Board never discussed or voted to approve.

It is time to take back Kansas schools from the Federal bureaucrats and textbook/testing/data mining corporations. These private firms are draining millions of dollars out of Kansas which are needed to teach our children. This is a 10th Amendment, States Rights crisis which must be fought and enforced now before we lose all control over what our children are taught. This lock-step, top-down, one-size-fits-all disaster is no way to teach any subject.

Passing HB2292 will allow our students to go back to learning the whole curriculum instead of just preparing to take a reading and math test which is neither valid nor reliable. It will free up the public, private, parochial and charter school teachers to be creative and meet the needs of diverse learners. It also protects the privacy of each student, family and teacher from the massive amounts of data being collected by bureaucrats and huge corporations.

Please “do the right thing” and pass this repeal of the Common Core so teachers can go back to teaching the whole curriculum. Excellent, experienced teachers are resigning rather than having to be micromanaged by these lock-step standards and the numerous, expensive tests which take up their time to teach. Data on every Kansas student is being collected by these testing corporations and leaving the school district without parental consent. So, by passing HB2292, you will take back our schools plus protect the privacy of Kansas students and families.

Respectfully submitted,



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