

To the Honorable Ron Highland, Chair of the Education Committee

Common Core is an invasive and predatory scourge that has been forced upon the children of Kansas. It attacks the sanctity of childhood in every part of a child's life.

Common Core requires that a federal database be kept for every child. Included in this database will be innocent comments by each student about their family's views on hunting and guns, politics, marriage and religion, and other private views. In a nation where IRS tyranny and Justice Department lawlessness is rampant can we afford to let this happen to our children?

For decades, America's educational standards have been in decline, with each generation of leaders being less prepared and less educated than the ones before it. The roles of teachers to help children learn to think for themselves and find solutions to problems has been replaced with a teach-to-test mentality. The curriculum creates confusion, creates disrespect for virtue, and infuses pornography into our classrooms.

It is time to take back control of our children's education!

Opponents of this bill and supporters of Common Core will go out of their way to sow seeds of doubt, make false statements, and threaten to tear our state apart with lawsuits if they do not get their way.

These people would have us continue the burden of Common Core and see our teachers and children continue to struggle.

Is that something that we can afford to let happen? Let's look at the facts.

- The federal government has made many failed attempts over the years to control different aspects of public education with dismal results.
- Common Core is a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to educating children which removes any and all local control. This kind of approach does not allow for an atmosphere conducive to learning and does not make room for diversity in culture, special needs children, advanced children, or unique Kansas needs.
- Kansas was bribed into accepting Common Core under the lure of federal grant money never received by our state.
- The estimated cost to maintain the burden of Common Core is upwards of \$800 million per year.
- Sensitive data on Kansas students and their families is being gathered which will follow students throughout their school years and beyond with no prior written consent from parents before such data is collected or distributed.

- Teachers are not treated as professionals, but are instead treated as facilitators that are evaluated and paid based on faulty standards and skewed state assessments.

Clearly we cannot afford to continue to subject our children and our teachers to these conditions.

We need a solution that deals with all of these problems fully. HB2292 does just that.

HB 2292, the Local Control of Kansas Education Act, is a bill that:

- Will take back control of our schools and return responsibility to the local school boards and parents.
- Protects children by giving parents the power to stop the predatory collection and distribution of their children's sensitive and highly private personal data.
- Protects teachers from the practice of teacher evaluations and pay being based on skewed state assessments, especially the current assessments aligned with Common Core.
- Eliminates every association with the consortia associated with the "Race to the Top" program and Kansas College and Career Ready standards.
- Ceases every implementation of the Common Core Standards Initiative in Kansas and is a complete repeal of Common Core and aligned tests.
- Re-establishes local control of education in Kansas and prevents Kansas from ceding any control to entities not allowed authority over Kansas education as per Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution.

This is what Kansas needs.

Politicians who want to sit on the fence or play both sides will not like HB2292.

This bill does not leave room for Common Core to simply be re-branded and continued under another name while politicians claim that they have defeated it, as has happened in other states.

Opponents of this bill will try to water down this bill or distract us by presenting alternative bills and solutions of their own, but make no mistake, their suggestions will not rid our state of Common Core.

This bill deals with the problem of Common Core fully and explicitly and each section is of vital importance to accomplishing this goal.

I respectfully urge that HB2292, the Local Control of Kansas Education Act, be passed out of committee keeping each of these important sections intact.

We can expel Common Core from Kansas and ensure that our children grow up with an excellent education system that puts children, teachers, and parents first.

Let's make a lasting difference that will protect children and teachers in the years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Blake Branson
4818 N Hedgerow St.
Bel Aire, KS 67220
316-209-7977