

**To the Honorable Ron Highland,
Chair of the Education Committee,**

I am writing to you because I OPPOSE Common Core and SUPPORT HB2292 the Local Control of Kansas Education Act.

Here are several reasons why I am against Common Core:

- 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. At the very least, there should be prior written consent from parents before such data is collected.
- We need a Kansas solution for Kansas education that allows us to make decisions based on a unique Kansas culture, based on unique Kansas needs, and based on what is best for Kansas.
- Teachers are relegated to role of "facilitator" and evaluated by faulty tests, and retirements are on the rise.

Here are several reasons why I would like to see strong support of the bill HB2292:

- Will take back control of our schools and return responsibility to the local school boards and parents.
- Protects children by putting parents in control of their children's sensitive data. Requires that parents be notified and give prior written consent when their child's sensitive data is to be collected, how the data is to be collected, how the data is to be used, what person or entity the data will be shared with, and the dates over which the disclosed data will be used.

- Protects teachers by the practice of teacher evaluations and pay being based on skewed state assessments.
- 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.

Thanks so much,

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