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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you about my deep concern over Common Core (CC) educational standards with a strong urgency for their repeal with the passing of hb2292. I used to practice speech/language therapy in the public schools where the majority of my students had individualized education plans, and I know that standards can and do drive curriculum, especially when tests are aligned to them.

I wonder, what happened to states' rights in education? You have likely repeatedly heard that states did not really take the lead in adoption of CC, because the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers are non-governmental trade organizations. Though governors were involved, this proved to be an executive overreach that bypassed your crucial legislative involvement. Also, states can only include 15% of their own standards. How is that state driven? Doesn't the way these standards were adopted run contrary to the tenth amendment of the US Constitution?

You have also most likely heard much about the concerns over data collection and the fact that Kansas received over \$9 million for a longitudinal data system which, combined with significant changes in the national government's Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, has families gravely concerned about the data to be collected and with whom it will be shared. The federal government can now share very personal data with anyone, public or private, if they can show it to be needed to evaluate an educational program. This is clearly an invasion of rights.

I am sure you have heard much about lack of rigor, especially in upper level math standards, and concerns about English and language arts standards, but have you heard what early childhood educators are saying? According to Edward Miller, a writer and teacher from Massachusetts, and Nancy Carlson-Paige, a professor of early childhood education at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, nobody on the review panels for the standards was a K-3 classroom teacher or early childhood professional. The authors state that the standards for K-3 are not based on research and share that many early childhood

professionals were shocked at an apparent lack of awareness of early childhood development. They also express concern that the CC standards have no provision for ongoing research or review of outcomes. Over Five hundred concerned early childhood professionals, psychologists, and pediatricians, many of them prominent in the field, signed the [Joint Statement of Early Childhood Health and Education Professionals on the Common Core Standards Initiative](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2013/01/29/a-tough-critique-of-common-core-on-early-childhood-education). A significant concern expressed is that children at this developmental stage learn through play and hands-on exploration, already much decreased in kindergartens with drill-based math and literacy curriculum driven by CC standards (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2013/01/29/a-tough-critique-of-common-core-on-early-childhood-education>).

Also, if you dig into the textbooks aligned with CC, you will discover much content that goes against the principle of the dignity and respect of human life from conception and at all stages. One really cannot be pro-life and pro-common core.

Our country was founded on Judeo/Christian principles. The true purpose of education is for our children to grow to see the face of God, not to be locked into a non-individualized machine designed merely to feed the global economy. The exodus to home schooling increases, and I believe it will continue to increase as parents discover the truth about Common Core. Our children deserve to be respected and treated as individual persons, made in the image and likeness of God. Please vote to repeal Common Core by passing HB2292!

Thank you for your time and interest. I appreciate your service to the state of Kansas.

Sincerely,

Tina Jinkens