

Written Testimony HB2292: Repeal Common Core

To: House Education Committee Members via sue.mollenkamp@house.ks.gov.

From: David Hendershot, Parent, Product and Educator in Kansas

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Before you vote on HB2292, I ask you to read the following. I know a lot of opinions have been thrown around that the Kansas College and Career Readiness Standard (Common Core) is an onslaught of federal mandates, but I want you to focus on what the core actually says.

I am a graduate of the Kansas system and an educator in a Title building in Valley Center. I expect my child to learn the common core because of what it means. I want you to evaluate the rigor of the first math standard in Operations and Algebraic Thinking for 2nd Grade. I teach this rigorous topic daily in my classroom:

[CCSS.Math.Content.2.OA.A.1](#)

Use addition and subtraction within 100 to solve one- and two-step word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.

How can you say that this is a bad standard? It asks students to critical think about unknowns in multiple positions. If the state decides to illegalize the cc are we then going to illegalize algebraic thinking? Why would you want to punish critical thinking instruction? I hope not, this is a concept everyone should build upon!

The main red flag that gets thrown up around the common core is never the actual standards. It always focuses on federal oversight. My concern is that the focus on federal oversight is more worried about what-ifs then the what-now. At this moment the common core is state-led. At this moment the standards are written vigorously. At this moment we have more important concerns.

My school district has spent down its reserves and frozen all positions. This means that we currently have 2 4th grade teachers for 61 students in 2015-2016 because we can't fill one position. I know of two other positions in other buildings that will have the same result. Our LOB is less than half a percent from max. Do we have the time to worry about the cc when the state can't even figure out a way to fund schools?

How can recommendations come to scrap it and make our own without an actual estimate of costs? No business I know would take on a project without real numbers identifying the costs of a project. Neither should Kansas!

Please consider sending a message to proponents of Kansas schools. We are not going to just throw out and illegalize good instruction just to send a message. Our children deserve better than a message. They deserve an education.

Thank you for your time and service.

David Hendershot