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**Attention: Education Committee**  
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building  
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**Subject: Testimony for Public Hearing on HB No 5078 & HB No 5331**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 12:00 PM in Room 1E - Legislative Office Building**

H.B. No. 5078 AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS. (\*which would delay the implementation of the common core state standards and the smarter balance test for a year.)

H.B. No. 5331 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISIONS TO THE PEAC GUIDELINES. (\*which would delay the smarter balanced test scores from being part of the teacher evaluations)

I am a parent of two 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys in the West Hartford School District. I am concerned about HB No. 5078 and HB 533. I am worried that the reforms being implemented in the State of Connecticut, which parallel those taking place in the country, are imprudent and serve as a one-size-fits-all method with critical deficits.

The Math Standards are not rigorous enough if they are only preparing students for admission to a non-selective community college. Algebra shifts from 8th to 9th grade resulting in students not being able to reach calculus by their senior year. I am concerned that the ELA Standard shifts from teaching classic literature to 70% informational text. It is concerning that the new Common Core State Standards in both Math and ELA are not developmentally appropriate.

I am disturbed by the fact that the process of the implementation of these reforms has essentially removed all public input, and effectively removes a great deal of local control from schools, thus impeding my power to direct my children's' education. When our elected officials, School Board President and district Superintendent signed the MOU in 2010, they allowed not only themselves but us as parents to be stripped of any local control. Our school board will soon be irrelevant.

I am disturbed that the State of Connecticut has developed a P20 database called the "Preschool through 20 Workforce Information Network" which was funded through the federal government, under the ARRA. This is especially disconcerting because the Department of Education in 2012 changed federal law (FERPA) to protect students' personally identifiable information to allow sharing with outside organizations of personal information without parental consent. Specifically, the database will collect personal data including educational records and assessment data, and other data collected and shared across various state agencies, on our children from pre-school through college. In order to fund the implementation of the P20 database, the state received an additional \$19M in stimulus funds to establish a longitudinal data system to collect this personally identifiable information from birth through career. In fact, our state grant application declared the wish to pursue opportunities to link to other agencies such as the Office of Community and Family Services and the Departments of Health, Criminal Justice and Labor. This data will then be sold to third party corporations and non-profits who will write curriculum geared to condition our children to meet the labor market demands essentially training future employees not employers.

I have learned that, all students from head start through 12th grade will be required to take multiple assessments throughout the year causing an additional financial burden on the district as well as stress on our children,

teachers and loss of instruction time. I am concerned that my child's teacher will be evaluated largely based on the result of a completely new and untested type of assessment. It would be a disadvantage to both students and teachers to tie a teacher evaluation to a standardized test score. I am concerned that the Connecticut State Department of Education is using my children this year as "guinea pigs" to help validate a product called the Smarter Balanced Assessment without my fully-informed consent, and insinuating that it is legally required, instead of giving a yearly assessment (like the CMT) of their learning as required by state statute.

On a personal note, over the past few weeks, my son's homework has been predominately about learning how to take this new Smarter Balanced Assessment. Plus throughout the entire year, homework and classroom assignments have revolved around how to answer correctly as laid out in the Common Core/Smarter Balanced Assessment. There has been nothing of true educational substance in these assignments. I understand that students will be taking some form of standardized test throughout their education career and it is helpful to know how to take the test but when a large percentage of their educational time is learning to take a test, I as a parent become extremely disappointed by the Common Core practices.

Thank you for your attention.

Gabriella True