

My name is Lindy Urso, I am from Cos Cob. I'm a husband, a father of 2 young boys (4 and 2), and I'm a practicing attorney.

My oldest is in his very first year of preschool and he won't hit Kindergarten for another year and a half. But I had heard some rumblings about this new overhaul of the entire American public education system – this Common Core – so I decided I better learn about it now BEFORE my boys are subjected to it.

I can tell you that everything – **EVERYTHING** I am learning about Common Core scares the living hell out of me.... For my kids and for my country. Let's start with the process. For me, if there is something SHADY about the way something is sold to the American people, invariably it is not GOOD for the American people.

- A. This thing was quietly foisted upon most of the States without ANY input from the people – that is, through you our Legislators. Rather, it merely took the signatures of two State Politicians (ED chairman and GOVERNOR) in each State in order to turn our Education system inside out, upside down, and to tear it to shreds.
- B. Tens and Hundreds of Millions of dollars were spent on this campaign – both in private Bill Gates Foundation money, and FEDERAL Race to the Top BRIBERY.

\*\* I hear a common refrain: Well, I think it's too late to change course now... Well, I'm quite certain that is PART B in the playbook of the architects and powers behind this Common Core. FIRST they essentially SNEAK it in on a gullible, trusting and unsuspecting public, and then, when they start to see the full import of our diabolical takeover and dismantling of the American Education System, we tell them that it's too late – you've already spent "X" amount of millions on this, how can you turn back now?

***Well, one truth ANY reasonable person knows is that you do NOT throw GOOD money after BAD. And in this case, the stakes are a LOT higher than money – it is the future of our children, the future of our nation, the future even of our liberty.***

- C. I was at the 2/28 sham one-sided Informational Hearing you had, where we listened to that paid, State-to State SHILL for the Council of Chief State School Officers, Mr. Minnich. He used all of the right buzzwords: "Stakeholders, Higher Standards, Rigorous" – but he NEVER told you WHO drafted the Common Core standards or Smarter Balanced Assessments.

Sen. Linares asked that question – unfortunately after the shill left to try to bamboozle a different State legislature – and the Chair indicated that the prior witness had answered that question at length. Well, I urge you all to go back and watch Mr. Minnich's testimony – Again, he claimed "Stakeholders" were involved and that the "State" was involved in reviewing draft versions, but he did NOT, in

ANY way, tell you WHO wrote this stuff; What were their qualifications, Where did they come from, What was their agenda. This is one of several GREAT MYSTERIES of Common Core. WHO, SPECIFICALLY, Drafted it. WHAT were their qualifications. Even members of their OWN VALIDATION COMMITTEE, could not – and CANNOT STILL, discover this information.

Mr. Minnich tried to pull the wool over your eyes by saying that the CT helped to draft – because the State BOE was able to review it before it was finalized, but that's nonsense. As you will see from the written testimony of SANDRA STOTSKY, who was ON THE COMMON CORE VALIDATION COMMITTEE in 2009, even SHE couldn't find out WHO drafted it. All that she DID find out was that the drafters did NOT include HS and College MATH and ENGLISH teachers or professors.

We don't even know NOW – WHO will be writing these Smarter Balanced Assessment Tests? I mean by NAME, by profession – WHO? What are these people's backgrounds? What are their qualifications? What are their personal or professional agendas?

WHAT do we know about these private organizations and the private foundations that fund them?

Are you aware that the Common Core Standards and Smarter Balance Assessment Tests – that these are COPYRIGHTED?????

These tests will be “Computer Adaptive,” which means that, while our children are taking the test, the remaining questions can CHANGE depending on the answers to the prior questions. WHO will be deciding what those new questions will be? And HOW can you compare ONE student to the NEXT if NOBODY is taking the SAME TEST?

- D. They keep saying that ALL COMMON CORE is is HIGHER STANDARDS – MORE RIGOROUS standards, and that it will BETTER PREPARE our kids for college and the global job market.

First, There is NO EVIDENCE that these are HIGHER STANDARDS? It doesn't exist. There is NO EVIDENCE that this will be more RIGOROUS?

Second, HOW will this complete overhaul in what and how we teach BETTER PREPARE THE KIDS? What criteria are they using to support that otherwise baseless claim?

Lastly, it is clear to ANYONE who has been exposed to Common Core and the Smarter Balance Assessments, that this is FAR BEYOND merely a Uniform set of Higher Standards – which is how this thing has been and continues to be sold

– It is, again, an overhaul and COMPLETE CHANGE in HOW and WHAT we teach our children, overturning a 100 years of Educational CONVENTION.

## E. PRIVACY

FINALLY, these tests are going to be (a) ONLINE – ONLY, and (b) accessible by various third parties who are involved in the process. SO, these various and sometimes unknown third parties will have access to EVERY test answer to EVERY test question that our children take from k-12.

Do you know how accurate a PROFILE one could do on a person with that kind of comprehensive data? Throw in the fact that the questions often reveal a lot about the child's household and the political leanings of his or her parents, and these folks can pretty much know EVERYTHING.

Despots and Tyrants throughout history have tried to control the education of their nation's youth. I have little doubt that this is a primary goal of the MYSTERIOUS CREATORS and BACKERS of this complete OVERHAUL of public education.

We know from Ed Snowden that the government collects EVERY PHONE CALL ANY OF US MAKE. That is not the stuff of science fiction or theory any longer. It is here. It is now. We are LIVING in George Orwell's novel.

After listening to and reading the work of SANDRA STOTSKY, I am certain that this new system will DUMB DOWN our population; And I suspect that this is no accident – that the DESIGNERS of this thing are seeking to create a population of non-critical thinking drone workers.

Again, this is not the stuff of science fiction or theory – it is here. It is now. It is Common Core.

This movement of centralized control of national education began in earnest with the creation of the federal Department of Education in 1979. In a mere 30 years – with the unwitting (or witless) help of countless self-interested “useful idiots” like the Stefan Pryors of the world, that goal is virtually accomplished. You know them, the Headmasters, and Superintendents, and other upwardly mobile and ambitious administrators who crave advancement – they are here in full skirts and pom poms cheering on this collective intellectual poison.

I have been watching this county be purposely destroyed – whether it's through the export of our jobs via Free Trade Agreements, or the economic yoke on small businesses that is Obamacare. But I draw the line when it comes to my children and their education. I pray that you do as well.

Enact HB 1508, hit the pause button, and let's subject this mammoth overhaul of public education to the light of scrutiny.

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