

Testimony for Public Hearing
Education Committee
March 12, 2014
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As a concerned parent of 3 children in a public elementary school, I urge you to vote in support of HB5078 An Act Imposing A Moratorium On The Implementation Of The Common Core State Standards and HB5331 An Act Concerning The Implementation Of The Revisions To The PEAC Guidelines.

My reasons for this are as follows.

1. Each child does not learn in the same way and should not be expected to reach their full potential by being taught via a cookie cutter untried and untested method. A method that strictly focuses on the use of assessments and has no proven track record for success in the real world or even on paper in theory. We need to put the brakes on a teaching method that does not empower and enhance each individual student's abilities.
2. All children are not created equal and should have their strengths and weaknesses taken into consideration when being taught. Allow teachers to do what they are trained to do. Teach the students using all the wonderful methods they have available to them and using their creativity to make learning fun. People are not machines and to expect them to all learn, integrate and respond to information in exactly the same way is not reasonable or realistic. Common Core does not take this factor into account.
3. Teachers should not have their evaluations take into account the student's assessment and test scores. I can state with total honesty that if my teachers in elementary, middle and high school had their evaluations based on my test scores they would have all lost their jobs. Is it a reflection on them that I am a poor test taker? Absolutely not. Is it indicative that my teachers didn't know how to teach? Absolutely not. Is it a reflection that I am an unintelligent woman? I can guarantee you that is not the case. I am a poor test taker and that is all! So again is it fair to rate teachers on what is out of their control? My answer is a resounding NO.
4. A large piece of Common Core that has been brushed under the rug is the longitudinal data base and the changes to FERPA in 2011 by the US Dept. of Education.. Changes that now allow student information to be given to 3rd parties WITHOUT student or parental permission. Changes that will leave parents uninformed as to how their

children's records are shared and to whom they are shared with. One of the key changes significantly broadens the definition of "personally identifiable information" to include student's ID number, Social Security number and/or biometric record including fingerprints, retina and iris patterns, voiceprints, DNA sequence, facial characteristics and handwriting; Information that, alone or in combination provides automated recognition of a specific student. Additionally the 400 data points that have the potential to be collected and put in the longitudinal data base include students DOB, religious affiliation, legal history, disciplinary history in school, medical & psychiatric diagnoses, medication taken by child, IQ score, identification of learning disabilities, etc. Because of these changes to FERPA this information is now allowed to be shared with third parties WITHOUT parental consent by School/ BOE administration to any authorized representative. This is not acceptable.

In closing I ask you all to vote Yes to the above bills so that the State Department of Education will be forced to stop the implementation of Common Core, listen to the concerns of parents, students and teachers about it and ultimately put it back to a vote to rescind the approval for the curriculum in CT. Thank you.