



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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Good morning, I am testifying on behalf of the many constituents and teachers who have contacted me with to express their concerns with the Common Core project.

As I listened to them and pondered what they had to say I drew the following conclusions:

Common core as currently being implemented seems to cause school systems to not merely to set goals for all students within a given grade level which is itself problematic given the diversity of backgrounds of our state and our nation, but it seems to encourage the notion that there is but one route to the destination. It thereby renders the many years of experience of our teachers inapplicable to the class room. Even Google and MapQuest usually offer multiple routes to get from one location to another.

Secondly there is no assessment no diagnostic tool directly related to Common core. Thus we will be using other assessment tools to try to determine if Common Core is working or not.

Thirdly Common Core is avowedly intended to begin preparing first grade pupils for college. That means that the creators of Common Core believe they know what College will be like a decade or more from now. Look at the last 10 or 20 years and ask yourself if college is the same today as it was 10 or 20 years ago. Touch screens are all the rage now, will they still be in 10 years. Yet Common Core is suffused with the use of this technology. The one thing we know for sure is that the future will be different from today and from what we expect it to be.

Finally let us apply the core concept of Common Core to another important activity. For example does it make sense to require that all legislators will have 100% voting attendance on the floor of their respective chambers. All legislators will introduce and pursue to passage one bill per session. Or all legislators will make on speech in committee? Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,  
Arthur J. O'Neill