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Representative Fleishmann, Senator Stillman, Rep. Ackert, Senator Boucher, and Rep.

Lavielle, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today on CB 5078, which is the moratorium on the Common Core Standards Implementation. My name is Sunni Weber and I am speaking to you today as a parent of Maya Torres, a 2nd Grader in Birch Grove Primary School in Tolland, CT.

Several years ago Connecticut's State Department of Education actively implemented the "The Race to the Top" program. Although I applaud the Department of Education's effort to act and address the reality that the education standards, in our state, seem to be un-equitable and vary based on the demographics of each community. I can even acknowledge the overall value of the Common Core's goal to foster an environment for students to develop much needed adaptive and critical thinking skills that will certainly help them in the future. Skills, I think, which are essential in dissecting and digesting the abundant amount of information and technology data that our children will be exposed to now and into their futures. Finally, I want to applaud our teachers and educators who have been working in earnest to implement the Common Core Standards but who are also embracing the additional challenges of teaching today's youth. I believe, however, our schools need more time to effectively, logically, and reasonably implement the Common Core Standards.

All that being said, I want to advocate today, not for the teachers or the Department of Education, but for my 2nd grader and her classmates. As a volunteer parent at Birch Grove Primary School, I have noticed over the last school year that my fun, affectionate and generous daughter's love of school slowly deteriorate to her expressing the desire not to go. In one example, last week while studying practice math tables, I observed a tremendous amount frustration begin to grow in her with regards to the math problems. Similar frustration that I have observed in her classmates as well. When she made a mistake on one of the problems (although she had quickly corrected the mistake and finished the worksheet) she kept revisiting

the problem she had missed and expressed great disappointment about the mistake. That event coupled with a report from Maya's teacher at a recent Parent-Teacher conference, where her teacher expressed concern that she was behind in some of her math facts like counting by 5s and such, which further perplexed me since several days before Maya and I had been practicing similar drills and she was able to not only count by 5s, but 10s, 20s, 50s and 100s. I can only conclude that she is experiencing so much stress and anxiety when it comes time for the test that she is unable to perform. My concern today is the rapid pace in which the Common Core curriculum was implemented without all of the proper tools and checks and balances that one might expect to insure that we are setting our children up for future academic success. I believe, it's our responsibility to act so that every child has an opportunity to achieve the strongest educational foundation in order to better prepare them for their future academic goals, but also foster a love of learning that would last a lifetime. Thank you again for listening to my testimony.