

My name is Coleen Brodin and I am the parent of a high school junior and a 7th grader in the public school system in Cheshire. I am asking you to vote NO on HB 5078 as it is currently written. While I agree with the aim of delaying the Common Core and its SBAC testing, there are several problems with the bill as it is written, and **I respectfully request that it be rewritten to include the following important points.**

First and foremost **there must be an investigation into how our children's right to privacy has been eroded, and how it can be fixed through Connecticut statute.** In opting out of SBAC for my children, I was told that Commissioner Pryor has been assuring the schools that it is "fully FERPA Compliant". But the fact is that that assurance is meaningless. Back in November I submitted a letter to the Curriculum Coordinator of Cheshire explaining my concerns regarding this loss of privacy, mentioning the specific statutes, and was told that our district lawyer was unable to refute any of it. For our purposes today I summarize:

- Despite the fact that all of Cheshire's data are stored on our own servers, by state law much of the information on those servers is already provided to the state, and at some point over the next few years the state will have direct access to it via its SIF (School Interoperability Framework)
- According to FERPA, the state can redisclose information that Cheshire shares with it, without Cheshire's permission.
- According to FERPA, the state can share personally identifiable information with for-profit corporations. Then if those corporations share it with anyone else, and they get caught, the punishment is that the state can't give them access to more personally identifiable information for five years. This doesn't take back the information though, or protect my kids from whoever those for-profit corporations shared it with; the information is irretrievably out there.
- The state does not provide further protections for my children in its own statutes since:
 - The state law does not limit what data can be collected about our students
 - The state law does not legally bind the CSDE to protect that data
 - The state has not made clear who is authorized to see that data
 - The state has not made its data privacy and security policies public

So clearly you can see that our children's private information is at the mercy of the state, and not with the parents where it firmly belongs.

The second issue with the statute as it now reads, is that **the State Department of Education should not be the ones conducting this study.** The study should be conducted by an impartial third party who is not invested in the outcome.

Issue three is that a study should not just be conducted on, as the statute now says, "the impact of implementing the Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced assessments on school districts in the state". **A study should first be conducted on the impact of Common Core and SBAC on the children.**

The final issue with the statute as it now reads, is that **an extremely relevant stakeholder in Common Core and SBAC is glaringly missing from the list of who the SDE feels should be consulted over the next year: parents.** To not include feedback from parents in determining whether ANY educational initiatives are appropriate for our children is completely inexcusable; and honestly, unethical.

So I reiterate, please vote NO on HB 5078 as it now stands. Please re-write it to include these important points, making sure that ALL stakeholders are included in the discussion, and get it passed quickly.