



TESTIMONY OF THE  
CONNECTICUT PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

Good Afternoon. My name is Don Romoser. I am the President of the Connecticut Parent Teacher Student Association ("PTA") which represents over 44,000 members in Connecticut. Our leadership had a previous commitment to be in Washington, DC to advocate for Connecticut's children at the national level, so I writing you today to testify on behalf of the PTA on **HB 5078 An Act Imposing a Moratorium on the Implementation of the Common Core State Standards.**

The PTA has been a leading advocate for the creation and implementation of nationally normed educational standards for well over two decades. Nationally normed standards assist all parties in the education arena. Teachers benefit from the ability to collaborate with other educators from across the nation. State and Local education agencies benefit by a similar ability to collaborate and assist each other. Parents benefit by knowing if their ever increasingly transient career moves them to another state, their children will be educated to the same standard. Finally, and most importantly, children benefit by these standards by learning to internationally benchmarked norms, having the ability to transfer the skills they learn seamlessly to any school in the nation and by being taught the skills needed in a 21<sup>st</sup> century society.

Change is difficult. But in education, as in business, if we are not changing today, we are going backward tomorrow. The United States and Connecticut, in particular, continues to fall behind educationally to much of the developed world. We understand there will be difficulties and growing pains associated with the continued implementation of the Standards. It is inevitable that change will cause challenges and take many of us out of our comfort zone. But to stop the 4 years' of progress in our state may be disastrous to our youth.

The Common Core State Standards provide the "Common" "Core" of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. If anything, Connecticut should be looking to add to these Standards and once again be among the leaders in education. Our state needs to continue our march into our future with conviction and resolve for our most valuable assets, our children.

In conclusion, the Connecticut PTA believes in the Common Core State Standards as a tool to keep our children competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Consequently, we oppose **HB 5078** and any moratorium or rollback of standards or funding. CT PTA does commit to assist Legislators, State Agencies, communities and parents in understanding and learning more about the standards and the implications as we implement the use of Common Core State Standards.