

March 11, 2014

My testimony to CT Legislature
Jessica Chiong

As a mom of three young children attending Elementary School in the state of CT, I have raised my concerns about the Common Core Standards since the beginning of 2011. I am an active mom in my children's school and their education.

You will here from many people today who will attest to why they are not comfortable with the Common Core Standards.

What originally had me concerned from the beginning that advanced me into researching it more, was that Common Core was created by the Governor's council, paid for by private entities like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, slipped past legislature and given a Race To The Top bribe money for all the states to want to adopt it. Ct did not receive RTTT funding, but through the minutes I have seen of our Educational Committee back in 2010, they continued to ask for more time to review over and over again the Common Core Standards, then all of a sudden the state of CT adopted Common Core Standards. The State of CT is considered the "Constitution State" yet our state looked at the dollar signs rather than truly looking into Common Core to see if it was in the best interest of our children. It was never benchmarked or piloted; yet we accepted it.

The state of CT, Pryor and Governor Malloy are coercing local districts to inform parents they cannot opt their children out of the New Pilot test of SBAC, insisting it is the law and our children MUST take this

test. This is not true. The new SBAC test is not a Mastery test. Governor Malloy only needs a small percentage of children to pilot this test. Yet so many parents are being told their rights, as a parent to opt their children out is not allowed. The teachers, parents, superintendents and taxpayers of CT, have the right to OPT their children out of this test and they feel this is the one way they control what they consider not appropriate for their children.

So in essence, it is ok for the State of CT to not look and see that Common Core standards violates the 10th Amendment and a few Federal statutes, but they can coerce change the language around and tell school districts they will be held liable if they do not get 95% of their students to comply with the SBAC test. I find this hypocritical in every sense of the word. In my opinion the state of CT, the educational committee, Pryor and Gov. Malloy need to look at the true elements of Common Core Standards and how it was slipped past legislature. It violates the Constitution and Parental Rights. If the state is so concerned about laws and for us to abide by them, I suggest that the state does the same. Thank you for this opportunity and I hope the Educational committee and the State Board of Education will take a closer look at the Common Core standards as it is a Federal attempt to take over our children's education. We do not want the Common Core Standards, and I ask you to please Opt out of the Standards all together and go back to what Ct had in place beforehand.