TESTIMONY
H.B. 5078 AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

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First, thank you for the opportunity to speak to HB 5078 as I have strong feelings on this issue. I am in opposition of this Bill and I do not believe there should be any delay, in any way, pertaining to the present timeline for Common Core across all public schools in Connecticut.

I reached this conclusion after speaking to administrators who have been charged with the task of Common Core professional development for our 600 educators who take responsibility for 6,000 students.

Karen Smith, our Assistant Superintendent of Instruction states:
"I believe that Common Core State Standards are good for all students as they engage in 21st century life skills. The real challenge behind CC is providing teachers and families with *accurate* information about the benefits of adopting rigorous standards that will challenge all learners and will prepare everyone for many options after high school and beyond."

Stephanie Lawlor, the district's Language Arts Coordinator states:

"The ELA curriculum has been aligned to the CCSS and we are constantly reviewing and revising as we better understand the standards. Is there more work ahead? Absolutely, but the groundwork has been established and plans to continue to build capacity around CCSS implementation are underway."

John Duffy, the district's K-12 Science Coordinator states:

"I think too many people have confused the two acronyms, CCSS and SBAC. These are two areas of readiness being merged into one. Struggles to assess electronically and fear of this unknown assessment should not be transferred to the standards themselves."

Dale Reidinger, the district's K-12 Math Coordinator states:

"The Common Core State Standards emphasize process and understanding and we are building essential critical thinking and problem solving skills in all instruction. That is why we need to continue with these standards as rigorous as they may be. Our students need to have the ability to apply what they know in real world situations."

Most recently, the district has adopted a long term vision for all learners. Deeply imbedded in this plan are tenets of what I believe represents tomorrow's education today – The Transformation Project - which was authored by CT. Superintendents.

Our district embraces the Transformation Project. Common Core is an essential component of the Project, and thus, Southington's long term plan. It is my further belief as stated within Southington's long term vision that:

- Children need to compete within a global arena…Common Core fosters such learning
- Children need to have a deeper and more meaningful experience in relevant curriculum…Common Core fosters such learning

Delaying the implementation of this work would be counter-productive to what I believe is a solid plan for all children to be productive citizens and workers.

We have prepared our educators and our students for Common Core because we believe it is the right thing to do. Delaying the implementation derails the energy moving forward at a number of different layers within the organization.

I encourage each of you to allow Southington and all local Connecticut districts to continue the work.