

Kristin Bramble
7 Glenbrook Drive
New Milford, CT 06776

March, 11 2014

Education Committee
CT Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106
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To: Education Committee

My name is Kristin Bramble, I am a mother of a first and third grader. I am very concerned with the Common Core Standards and how they are being implemented across the nation.

The Common Core Standards were not written by early childhood educators, high school English or math teachers, scientists, or engineers. There was no input from parents, or professionals who work with children with disabilities. The Common Core Standards were developed by three private organizations who never explained their rationale for choosing the writers, the members of the feedback group or the validation committee. In fact, all of the writers of the Common Core Standards were affiliated with businesses that make educational and testing materials, including ACT, Achieve, The College Board and America's Choice (Pearson). In essence, the Common Core Standards were drafted by people who will directly benefit and profit – testing and textbook companies.

The federal government does not know our children and has no right to be involved in education! Education has been the domain of State government and local school boards. We need to stand up and take control of our children's education back from the federal government! The way Common Core was implemented proves the federal government is not concerned with the welfare of our children.

I urge you to vote "NO" on bill H85078 for the following reasons:

- 1) The bill may remove local control over curriculum and, instead, for the first time in our history, grant that authority to the State.
- 2) The bill will not encourage public support or confidence, when parents are completely left out of the "Consultation" process.
- 3) This bill makes no reference to removing and requirement to collect and disseminate personal information.
- 4) The bill makes no reference to any provision allowing parents to opt-out their children from mandatory standardized testing.

I urge you to adopt a bill that simply allows parents to opt-out their child from any standardized testing.

Today, the State Board of Education can vote to repeal adoption of the Common Core. Do not use our children as guinea pigs.

Sincerely,

Kristin Bramble