

Testimony for Public Hearing
Education Committee
March 12, 2014

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SUPPORT: HB-5078 — AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Honorable Members of the Education Committee,

As a parent of an elementary school student, I have deep concerns with the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

- A “one size fits all” approach to education is severely flawed. Local school boards are directly accountable to the voters in their community and are in the best position to decide what is best for their schools. Although districts can theoretically choose their own curriculum, the federally funded model is more likely to be adopted due to the complexities involved in complying with the standards. This will destroy local control of our schools.
- Replacing classical literature with “informational texts” does not foster critical independent thinking skills. Students should **not** be taught what to think, rather they should be taught **how** to think.
- The standards are not developmentally appropriate for young students. For example, simple math concepts seem to be needlessly complicated, just for the sake of changing the way they are taught. This causes undue stress and confusion in many students, my own son included.

While not specifically addressed in this bill, I am also opposed to the State spending \$1 million on a public relations campaign to promote the Common Core. As I understand it, this idea has already been tabled, but I nonetheless want to make it clear that spending more money to promote a fundamentally flawed idea only compounds the mistakes already made.

I and my family oppose the Common Core standards in no uncertain terms. The list of problems voiced by educators and parents alike continues to grow as more people become aware of this initiative. This constitutes a very good reason to take a step back in order to reassess the potential damage we are doing to our educational system and our children. Some 13 states have already submitted legislation to either allow their local communities to void implementation of “Common Core” without penalties or withdraw their state altogether. Connecticut needs to join others who are second guessing this highly questionable initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Weisheit