

Subject: Education Committee Public Hearing 3/12/2014

Please find below my comments that I planned to present to the Committee today, but was not able to stay for the duration.

Madame Co-Chair, Mr. Co-Chairman and members of the Education Committee, my name is Laraine Jones from Windsor, CT. I am addressing the legislature today in response to the Proposed Bill No. 5078, "An Act Imposing a Moratorium on the Implementation of the Common Core State Standards," would also require the state's Department of Education to investigate the impact of implementing the standards and prevent the department from spending appropriated money on putting the curriculum in place pending the investigation's results.

I am in opposition to the Proposed Bill No 5078.

It is important that all parties understand what is meant by The Common Core State Standards Initiative. It is an education initiative in the United States that details what K-12 students should know in English, language arts, and mathematics at the end of each grade. The initiative, sponsored by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), seeks to establish consistent education standards across the states as well as ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter credit-bearing courses at two- or four-year college programs or enter the workforce.

I ask "what parent or teacher would not want this for their children or students?" And if this is something that parents and/or teachers do not want then I ask, "Why not?"

I understand the concerns that have been raised by local school districts, teachers and parents throughout Connecticut about the changes to our standards and the increased demand and pressure required to prepare our students for testing under the new standards. While the transition to the new standards may not be easy, this is no excuse for putting the brakes on moving forward with implementing the Common Core Standards. Now is NOT the time to stop the implementation process. If anything, the decision to re-evaluate the implementation process is the right decision, but in no way, should Connecticut decide to place a moratorium on the implementation of the Common Core Standards.

Based on the Trends in the International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), 2011, Connecticut ranked 24 out of all of the states and the District of Columbia. Our neighbors Massachusetts ranked 1, Vermont 2, New Jersey 4, New Hampshire 5 and New York 10. So what would this mean if we elected to delay the implementation of the Common Core Standards? It would simply mean that Connecticut would continue to fall even further behind in preparing our children with a first class 21st Century education. I implore you to consider the importance for Connecticut to be on board with setting high expectations for our students that is second to none. Now is the time for us to stop making excuses for why we should not implement the Common Core Standards. Now is the time for Connecticut to jump on board with focusing on what we need to do to make happen the implementation of the Common Core Standards in every school district throughout the state and providing the resources and support to do so.

I am appealing to this body today to continue to move forward with the implementation of the Common Core Standards, but at the same time to ensure that the process for implementation will be one that all stakeholders – school districts, teachers, parents and students – will be able to reap the benefits and

successes that will result from adopting the Common Core Standards, ensuring that all of our children in Connecticut are afforded a first class 21st century education that will prepare them for their future.

May God Continue To Bless You,  
Laraine Jones  
(#125 on the list)  
Independent Math Tutor

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works.... (Matthew 5:16 KJV)

Sent from my iPad