

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to urge the legislature to pass H.B. No. 5078 to impose a moratorium on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Connecticut. While many political and corporate interests have rallied around the CCSS, the fact remains that they are an untested experiment. There is not a shred of evidence that these standards, as they are written and interpreted will, in fact, result in closing the achievement gap or even advance learning for any students.

As parents and citizens, we like evidence. We want to know that our tax dollars are being spent on something with a proven track record of effectiveness. We want to know that the learning standards adopted by our state are going to indeed raise achievement. On that count, the CCSS has never delivered. We are not willing for our children and our neighbors' children to be part of a grand experiment.

Moreover, the writing of the standards was not transparent and included far more representatives from the testing companies than educators or parents. In short, the CCSS will deliver much to testing companies in terms of money and data, yet promise to deliver little to students, families and communities. This is a huge conflict of interest.

Finally, the CCSS (which really are not state standards whatsoever - they have replaced state standards with something that sounds alarmingly like a federal takeover) are much too closely tied to standardized testing. Aside from the fact that testing companies stand to profit most from these standards, standardized tests are simply not compatible with the type of 21st century goals we should have for our children and our public schools.

We strongly urge the Connecticut State legislature to impose a moratorium on (or better yet, scrap altogether) the CCSS. They are not good for our communities, our state or our children.

Respectfully,  
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