

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of

House Bill 5078 An Act Imposing a Moratorium on the Implementation of the
Common Core State Standards

March 12, 2014

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Ackert,
and other esteemed members of the Education Committee:

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) have the potential to transform teaching and learning by providing students with the problem-solving, critical-thinking and teamwork skills they need to compete in today's changing world. This approach to learning moves away from rote memorization, endless test-taking. The standards establish and give students the ability to think about problems and solutions. Students will be able to understand and comprehend and make good decisions.

In order to successfully implement CCSS, the State Department of Education and local school districts must work with teachers to develop high-quality curricula and professional development. They must provide teachers and students with the time needed to try out new methods of teaching.

The problem that is facing most of the school districts in Connecticut has been the entire program was dumped on them without any learning curve for administrators or teachers. The State had plenty of time to organize the implementation of the new teaching method, but failed to do so.

First, over 45 other States have tried or implemented the Common Core State Standards. The State should have contacted some of these States to see what worked and what did not work.

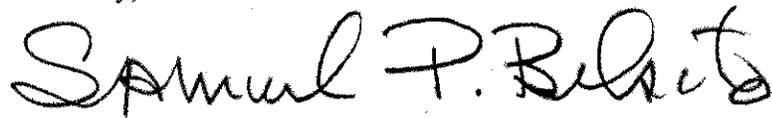
Second, the State should have selected what things other States were doing right and developed a plan for instituting the correct methods. There was no reason to re-invent the wheel when it was already in place.

Third, the entire Common Core State Standards plan should have been implemented in stages and been uniform through-out the State.

Fourth, the plan should be halted now and re-organized for a successful re-start.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel P. Belsito". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' at the beginning.

Sam Belsito
State Representative