



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Education Committee  
Public Testimony  
Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5078 AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS.

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

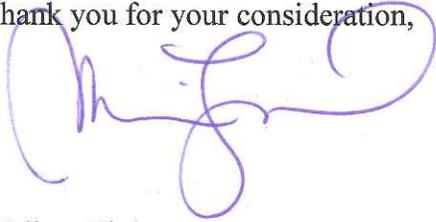
Since my original request to pause Common Core State Standards (CCSS), I have met with many more educators and parents. I have also attended half dozen pro and con CCSS forums around Middlesex County. It has become clear to me that our local Boards of Education need a defined period of pause, which this bill does not articulate specifically. In order to facilitate that need I am offering to specify that hold be for a maximum of one year and one month. Our local Boards of Education have spent considerable taxpayer dollars and time preparing for the implantation and it is with that in mind that I bring forward the suggestion of a commission to address the myriad of issues that go along with CCSS.

This Commission concept is not new; in fact a similar proposal was submitted to the Rhode Island legislature. In order to contribute to your discussions I thought it had merit and was worth your consideration. I have taken the liberty to adjust formatting for your expediency.

I served on my local Board of Education for almost 6 years and am the parent of a high school freshman. The parents I hear from most have a different perspective. They are the parents of children in K-3 who tell me disheartening stories of their children's struggle with taking tests on computers. They themselves struggle as effective parents because there are no homework help guidelines to assist them in instructing their children at home. I empathize with these parents as they try to teach simple math problems to their children in language that is now foreign to them. I could go on and on with the comments that I have heard from parents across the district, but after viewing the testimony you have already received I believe it would be redundant.

The pause in implementation would allow for those unintended consequences and for our local Boards of Education across the state time to budget effectively in lieu of the carrot of Race to the Top funds that have eluded the State three times.

Thank you for your consideration,



Melissa Ziobron  
State Representative  
34<sup>th</sup> District

**Establishment of common core state standards, evaluation commission - Duties and responsibility.**

- (a) The general assembly hereby establishes the common core state standards evaluation commission. The commission's purpose is to study and evaluate the department of education's standardized testing based on common core curriculum, and shall advise and make recommendations to the governor and the general assembly as to the adequacy and efficiency of such standardized testing. The commission shall consist of twenty-one (21) members as follows
- (1) The commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
  - (2) Eight (8) of whom shall be appointed by the governor: one (1) of whom shall be appointed by the CEA; one (1) shall be appointed by the AFT; two (2) of whom shall be recommended by the CT Association of School Principals; two (2) of whom shall be recommended by the CT School Superintendents Association; and two (2) public members who are the parents or guardians of a student enrolled in a CT public school;
  - (3) Six (6) of whom shall be appointed by the Senate President; two (2) of whom shall be from the Senate, who are not members of the same political party; two (2) who are parents or guardians of a student enrolled in a Connecticut public school; two (2) of whom shall be 18 and a high school senior or equivalent.
  - (4) Six (6) of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House: two (2) of whom shall be from the House of Representatives, who are not members of the same political party; one (1) who demonstrates expertise in language arts literacy instruction and curriculum; one (1) who demonstrates expertise in mathematics instruction and curriculum; and two (2) of whom are, parents or guardians of a student enrolled in a Connecticut public school.
- (b)(1) Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties under this section.

(2) The commission shall organize, no later than forty-five (45) days after the appointment of the members. The members shall elect one member appointed from the senate, and one member appointed from the house to serve as co-chairpersons, and a secretary of the commission. The secretary need not be a member of the commission.

(3) The commission may request and shall receive from any instrumentality of the state and from any municipality or any instrumentality of the municipality, any information and assistance it deems necessary for the proper execution of its powers and duties under this section. The department of education shall provide such stenographical, clerical, other administrative and professional assistance as the commission requires.

(c)(1) The commission shall evaluate the implementation of the standardized testing, based on Common Core State Standards. The evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to the following:

(i) A description of actions taken by the state to implement the common core standards, and a timeline of actions to be taken;

(ii) A comparison of the Common Core State Standards for language arts and mathematics to the core curriculum content standards in language arts literacy and mathematics that existed prior to the adoption of the common core state standards;

(iii) An estimate for the full cost for municipalities to implement the common core state standards, including those costs already incurred by municipalities, and those to be incurred in the future; and the feasibility of technical implementation.

(2) The commission shall study and evaluate the issue of student and family personal data mining and a student's right to privacy. The commission shall consider, but not be limited to collection relating to learning disabilities, student behavior, political affiliation, religious affiliation and medical history.

(3) The commission shall investigate:

(i) All issues and concerns regarding the pilot testing implemented in the states of New York and Kentucky;

(ii) The validity of the common core assessment as a tool to be used to determine graduation requirements and measure teacher effectiveness.

(iii) The commission shall meet at least monthly, in addition to holding public hearings in each county of the State. The purpose of the public meetings shall be to gather information regarding the implementation of the common core state standards, the mining of student and family data and student privacy rights. No later than 13 twelve (13) months after the commission organizes, it shall submit a final report containing findings and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly.