

Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this education proposal, Common Core.

I am the father of four children each of whom has attended public school in New Milford, Connecticut and gone on to graduate from college. I am the grandfather of two children who currently attend public school in New Milford. I served on the Board of Education in New Milford, CT in the early 1980s and for the period from 2008 thru 2013.

From my experience it is clear that there are tremendous difference between the needs of each educational system in our state. New Milford's needs are different from Danbury's, Greenwich different from New London, Hartford different from Torrington. Common core ignores these differences and would impose a one size fits all curriculum on the schools in this state. This would be a terrible mistake.

When I resumed serving on the School Board in 2008, the one thing that all members of the school board were agreed upon was that we did not want to push money into administration nor our physical plant but, instead to drive our investment into teaching the students. AT that time and ever since, New Milford has had an aggressive program to review and revise its curriculum. Common Core would only distract New Milford from its current program.

In closing, I would leave you with one observation. The greatest failure of the public school system today is its overemphasis on bureaucracy. For our teachers to do their jobs, we have to recognize that we have hired them with the expectation that they are good, competent adults and that the most important thing they can bring to a classroom is their judgment and its application to the needs of each individual child.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address you on these matters and, please reconsider imposing Common Core on our schools.

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