

Testimony for Public Hearing
Education Committee

March 12, 2014

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As a concerned parent of 3 children in public elementary school, I urge you to vote in support of HB5078 and HB5113.

While there are many areas of concern with the Common Core State Standards, there are two I find most troublesome.

One, the fact that special interest groups developed these 'standards' over the course of two short years and began bribing states with Race to the Top funds to implement them only two months afterward — with absolutely no field analysis to prove them out — should have everyone concerned. Utilizing the public schools for the CC Smarter Balance field tests this year to garner results is a complete waste of time, money, and resources. Utilizing our children as 'guinea pigs' to test the tests is unacceptable to me as a parent and a complete disservice to them as children.

Secondly and the most troublesome part of Common Core is the longitudinal data collection of students and parents, including information pertaining to personal habits, academic grades and issues, religious beliefs, political affiliation — just to name a few. Recent changes in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allow for essentially ANYone to gain access to personal information

on our children. This is a complete disregard for our rights as parents and their rights as individuals. My main concern here, is that I don't want any of my children's information, neither personal nor academic, ending up as part of their permanent trackable record in statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDS).

From what I've seen reviewing the online sample tests, many of the questions are confusing at best and some even had acceptable answers that were down-right wrong. We have CC math homework that requires multiple, confusing, and time wasting steps to do something as simple as multiply two numbers together. It's evident that these new 'standards' are not ready for prime time. Personally I'd like to see CC go away completely, not just postponed. At the very least a YES vote on HB5078 will give more time for **educators**, not special interest groups, to evaluate these 'standards' and then call for them to be completely rescinded.