

State of Connecticut

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL**

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT SAMPSON
EIGHTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**Education Committee
Public Testimony
Wednesday March 12, 2014**

Dear Representative Fleischmann, Senator Stillman, Representative McCrory, Senator Bye, Representative Ackert, Senator Boucher and all Members of the Education Committee,

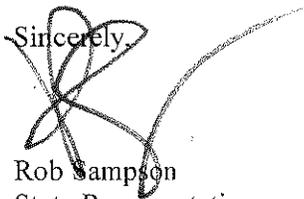
I would like to submit this testimony in support of HB 5078: An Act Imposing a Moratorium on the Implementation of the Common Core Standards and HB 5331: An Act Concerning the Implementation of the Revisions to the PEAC Guidelines.

There are two principles that I strongly believe in that are directly relevant to this debate.

First, if it's not broken, don't fix it. While Common Core may have its positive and negative aspects, my ultimate objection to it is that it is simply a mandate, a mandate that is applied with equal force to both quality high performing school districts as well as to those who are not.

Second has to do with right-sizing government. Individual school districts should be able make their own decisions and if they so choose, to use any piece of Common Core or PEAC that they find useful. They should not however, be forced to abandon what they have, especially in the many examples, like in the school districts I represent, where there methods have clearly been effective. After all, this is why we have local governments and local Boards of Education in the first place. Used effectively, they are the proper tool to ensure quality education as they do so under the direct scrutiny of the children's parents and also the elected local officials who are responsible to them.

Please vote in favor of these bills, as they give these bodies the discretion that is rightfully theirs.

Sincerely,


Rob Sampson
State Representative
80th District