

To the House Education Committee

I am a mother of three children in the public school system, so I have a vested interest in the legislation that will affect their education careers. I have seen first hand the results of NCLB in the classrooms of my children, and that is what started my journey of studying education legislation. Common Core was not a state led initiative. All the states blindly adopted the Standards in 2009-10 because they were desperate for a way out of NCLB. We adopted something we knew nothing about when the standards had not even been created yet. While Representative Boldra stated on Tuesday that Kansas had actually contributed “ideas” to the group writing the standards this does not mean we actually had input. Kansas should not have to submit ideas to anyone else about what we want our children to learn. And what will happen when we decide we don’t like some of the standards? We will have to submit changes to the consortia of states, and it will have to be approved by every state involved. What is the likelihood of that? This is education without representation. No longer will a parent be able to go to a school board with concern over what is being taught in their child’s classroom because it will all be tied to something too large to move. The standards currently set in place are good, the confusing part comes when we talk about the assessment of those standards and how they are scored. In 2005 the State Dept of Ed. Lowered the cut scores and changed the definition of “proficient” in order to make it seem more children were proficient and keeping up with NCLB. If we look at the NAEP scores we get a better picture of the rigor of our current standards. We will not be going back 3 years as stated by Mr. Neunswander if we keep up with these current standards and review them on their 7 year cycle. This will also minimize costs as the cost of implementing CCSS is still very much up in the air. The proponents of CCSS have failed in my view to provide the research to back the claim that students will be college and career ready with CCSS. The biggest thing at risk in all of this is our Liberty as citizens. The intrusive data collection that is currently happening with the State Longitudinal Data System that was adopted as part of the Race To The Top grant must be stopped. Please stand by our constitution and keep education in the hands of the local authority. Approve HB 2289 and stop the implementation of CCSS.

Thank you for your time and consideration
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