

Dear Representatives Doherty, Frederick and Sprenger,

I am a resident of Ashland, Oregon. I ask that you vote YES on HB 2835.

My main concern with Common Core is the math aspect, as I have recently been personally affected by Common Core math. I am a former teacher with a Masters in Education and 8 years of experience teaching middle school biology in California. I am a certified teacher in Oregon and currently work as an educational assistant at a local elementary school.

I am also a mother of a first and third grader. My son is gifted in math. I have kept a close eye on what he is doing in math as he breezes through it. I was concerned with how the math problems were worded and the strategies used to solve the problems but figured all was fine if he was not struggling. We moved to Oregon a year ago from Mississippi and he is doing the same math now in 3rd grade that he was doing at the beginning of 2nd grade in Mississippi. Mississippi had not implemented Common Core Math when he attended school.

In Oregon, 95% of his class are struggling, in tears during homework and are far from being ready for 4th grade math, according to his teacher. However, my son uses strategies from Mississippi to excel and is not being challenged. There was an incident where he was using his Mississippi strategy- the obsolete "quick and traditional borrowing" in subtraction and his teacher insisted on him using the "drawing pictures" regrouping, Common Core strategy and he refused. He tried to communicate that his strategy was better and quicker and he was considered defiant. The situation escalated, he became upset and the classroom iPad reward was taken away, he was dragged to the office by the principal and his recess was taken away. Now they are offering to pull him out of class to help with calming strategies.

There is something gravely wrong with this picture! Common Core is negatively affecting not only students that struggle but also the ones that are excelling by using the one size fits all model. Another such example is of my son's classmate that is bright, yet struggling with Common Core Math. She is in tears every night during homework. When her parents voiced their concerns, they were told that the school would like to test their daughter for a disability. Another classmate's family decided to pull him out of school because of Common Core Math and are now homeschooling. Bright children are struggling during these formative years; for what?! Common Core Math does not work.

I ask that you repeal Common Core and give our kids a fighting chance. If we continue on this path, the damage done will be irreparable.

Thank you, in advance, for your support in our children's future!

Amber Hoyem