

Dear Chair Rep. Doherty and all Representatives on House Education Committee,

Thank you so much for having a hearing on HB2835. I am making a request that you support this bill!

As a very involved parent volunteer in my community, my experience with Common Core State Standards has not been productive, or pleasant. I was first introduced to Common Core and its impending testing i.e. Smarter Balance, when my 3rd grade son started coming home with the new CCSS aligned Envision Math (owned by Pearson) worksheets, in the Fall of 2013, it was an upsetting time for both of us. I felt like the convoluted word problems and abundant steps, was designed to push parents away from helping their children and keep these younger children in constant confusion and frustration. I saw my son slipping further away from establishing the foundational math skills needed in order to move on to the next logical steps in math. After spending dozens of hours doing research on how this came into our schools, who designed it, who is funding it/promoting it, and the lack of proof of merit it had...I was convicted in this momma's heart, to get my kids out of public school, and QUICKLY! I knew time was of the essence to get my son all the foundational help he needed for the rest of his 3rd grade learning experience. We LOVED their teachers at their old school, it wasn't their fault why we left, I saw their hands were being tied! After sharing some of the research that I had done, many were shocked to find out the facts, and wondered why they were only told the "rhetoric" of CCSS..."college and career ready" and it was "more rigorous standards." I can agree with some of the benchmarked standards listed in CCSS, most people would look at them, and say the same thing. But we all felt lied to and deceived, because what we were experiencing on the front lines was a huge disconnect from that rhetoric.

My kids are currently getting non-common core aligned schooling and tests; they are experiencing higher standards, content, skills, and flexible teaching, in my opinion.

I care about the children of this beautiful State, that's why I spend time appealing to you and others, to research where our breaches in our educational system are, and encourage working together in creating a better culture; teachers not feeling gag ordered/oppressed, and parents/school boards getting more intricately involved, and not just in a "smoke screened" kind of way.

Some of my concerns with CCSS and its implementation:

- Came into existence without Representation
- Unconstitutional, in violation of 10th amendment
- Lacked transparency, research, and proof of merit in its productiveness
- Treats our children as guinea pigs, and American classrooms as research labs
- Corporate led Education Reform through CCSS and its many webs associated with it, (i.e. data collection & lack of privacy) is not in best interests of the children
- CCSS tests, i.e. Smarter Balance and PARCC, fair to profit greatly on our kids, and 65% are predicted to FAIL...CHILDREN ARE NOT DEFINED BY SCORES
- CCSS and its tests are not developmentally appropriate, especially for the younger children.

- NCLB and CCSS culture is unethical, unconscionable to bully and intimidate children, parents, and teachers...kids are getting ill, crying, and made to feel stupid
- CCSS Math standards in high school only prepare them for Community College
- CCSS implementation will continue widen the achievement gap
- CCSS doesn't allow flexibility for Special needs kids
- Talented and Gifted kids won't fair well with CCSS
- CCSS culture alienates children from their parents

I am so appreciative for you serving your constituents in this capacity! Thank you for taking the time in your consideration of listening to my request and reasons for asking for your support in HB2835.

Sincerely,

Lisa Crume

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~Lisa

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