

Chair Doherty, Members of the Education Committee, happy Friday, for the record my name is Andrew Beach, a committed parent of 3 daughters in the public education system here in Oregon. There are TWO things I have done in the last year that I never thought I'd ever do: FIRST, I filed to run for Beaverton School Board--Vote Beach for Zone 7!, the SECOND is I am here testifying before you. Why would a parent with no political aspirations want to be active in this way? it has a lot to do with the education of my daughters and becoming aware of actions of this body and the Oregon Dept of Education have taken to take the joy out of learning. Common core is MORE than standards, its also testing and curriculum. Walking around schools I see very little joy, few smiles, and lots of stress. Teachers are teaching things they never learned to teach and are finding a lot of the curriculum ineffective and arbitrary to prepare kids for a test they haven't even seen or had input into. A recent study out of UMASS shows standardized testing results in 11% decrease in trust and 28% less likely of parents would participate in school fund raisers.

This begs the question, if parents feel alienated by National Standards AND teachers don't enjoy teaching to national standards AND students haven't improved under standards-based education, who exactly is benefiting from it? Enter Bill Gates. Bill Gates to date has spent over \$6b on common core and similar initiatives touting college and career readiness through his foundation. The Gates Foundation posts all their grants online, I highly recommend checking it out. Here's what Bill Gates said in 2009, "...identifying common standards is just the starting point. WE WILL ONLY KNOW IF THIS EFFORT IS SUCCEEDING when the curriculum and tests are aligned to these standards...when the tests are aligned with the standards, the curriculum with line up as well and it will unleash a powerful market of people providing services for better teaching. for the first time there will be a large uniform base of customers..." So it's about money. in fact, this state government has accepted \$1.9m through ODE. I think we all can agree that Private money should not be dictating public policy. Public policy in education

should be developed and approved by those most affected, parents, students and teachers.

It's not only CCSS, it's the next generation science standards (NGSS), social studies standards and the national sexuality standards are in development now, as well as completely redesigned AP curricula (controversial APUSH). The main architect of common core david coleman is now CEO of the college board developing AP curricula, AP tests, and an SAT that are all aligned in this grand scheme. Mr Coleman said "Teachers will teach towards the test. There is no force strong enough on this earth to prevent that". Is this the man we want guiding and steering Oregon's education? I think David Coleman has underestimated the force of a protective parent.

Some questions you need to consider when you decide to vote on HB 2835: Who stands to benefit the most from nationalized standards, curriculum and testing? Who stands to lose the most from those same efforts? For the sake of our parents, teachers, and students pass this bill.

It's important to remember that recently in circuit court decision in Missouri, fees to the interstate Smarter Balanced consortia was deemed unconstitutional. Yet here we are, administering the test anyway even though Rob Saxton's has admitted 70% of our students are expected to fail. Consider the words of Jason Zimba, who wrote the common core math standards, which I think sums up my strong support for HB 2835: "The definition of college readiness [as relates to common core], I think it's a fair critique, that its a MINIMAL definition...it's not for STEM..it's not only NOT for STEM, it's not for selective colleges..." Don't be fooled representatives, common core is just the beginning of the unfunded mandates to come, that are crippling our districts struggling to comply.

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