

Date

Senator

Representative

Dear Senator _____ and Representative _____,

Recently, I've done some research on Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and have questions regarding how CCSS will affect the students, taxpayers, teachers, and parents of Illinois.

First, where can we see Illinois' cost analysis of what CCSS will cost the taxpayers? Currently, Illinois is one of the top states with the highest property taxes. I've seen projected numbers of upwards of \$700 million to fully implement CCSS in Illinois alone. (Not to mention on going cost of yearly testing, keeping computers up to date for the testing, and teacher training.) Where will this money come from, in our already struggling state?

(http://www.accountabilityworks.org/photos/Cmmn_Cr_Cst_Stdy.Fin.2.22.12.pdf)

Second, what if CCSS is not working for our students? Where is the amendment process? As a parent where will my voice be heard if I am unhappy with the way these standards are being implemented? There is no local control or even method of input or recourse over what is being taught our children.

Third, those in favor of CCSS claim that these standards were state-led. If that were the case, where was the public invitation to discuss these standards and why can we not see who is currently writing the science and social studies standards? Also, when the Illinois State Board of Education approved CCSS they claim, in the minutes of the meeting, that "Parents, teachers, school administrators and experts from across the country together with state leaders....have led the effort to develop a common core of state standards." And, "Teachers have been a critical voice in the development of the standards." In our research, we find this to not be the case. If it is the case, can you please let me know when the teachers of Illinois came together to have a "critical voice" in the development of CCSS? (Link to minutes:<http://web1.isbespr1.isbe.net/board/meetings/2010/june/rules.pdf>)

Fourth, the Race to the Top application was turned in January 19, 2010 which committed our state to CCSS, in order to receive \$400 million dollars and this was five months before the standards were even complete (and the testing portion is yet to be completed). The standards were completed on June 2, 2010 and the Illinois State Board of Education approved these standards just 22 days later on June 24, 2010 and in the minutes of their meeting it clearly states that there is "no legislative action" needed. Why was there no legislative action for this massive change in education? Did the legislators

even know this was taking place back in 2010?

(<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/racetothetop/pdf/phase1/application.pdf>)

Fifth, the Constitution assigns education *to the states*, not to the federal government. Also, the federal General Education Provisions Act states, “No provision of any applicable program shall be construed to authorize any department, agency, officer, or employee of the United State to exercise any direction, supervision or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any education institution, school, or school system, or over the selection of library resources, textbooks or other printed or published instructional materials by any education institution or school system...” In light of this please explain why our state has agreed to intense micromanagement by the federal government under Common Core testing? (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-assessment/sbac-cooperative-agreement.pdf>)

As you can see we have a few alarming concerns about the CCSS and would appreciate a reply. Our hope is to see the legislation of Illinois write a bill that brings the control of state standards back to state control! Yes, the purse strings of Washington are powerful, but these are our children and should not be subject to people in Washington deciding what is best for them.

We would urge you to please consider looking over the list of resources we have included as an attachment and, if you are not aware of these issues, please educate yourself in this regard over the next couple of months.

We see Common Core as education without representation, which flies in the face of what America was founded on! Would you be willing to answer these questions and create a piece of legislation to halt Common Core in Illinois?

Thank you for your time,

Name

Phone

City

ATTACHMENT 1

Set of 5 videos out of Georgia: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coRNJluF2O4>

Truth in American Education has assembled information on Common Core on their web site: <http://truthinamericaneducation.com/common-core-state-standards/> and <http://truthinamericaneducation.com/resources/> and <http://truthinamericaneducation.com/privacy-issuesstate-longitudinal-data-systems/>

The text of a Texas bill recently passed to prohibit the implementation of Common Core standards: <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/83R/billtext/pdf/HB004621.pdf#navpanes=0>

A series of posts by Michelle Malkin on Common Core:

<http://michellemalkin.com/2013/01/23/rotten-to-the-core-obamas-war-on-academic-standards-part-1/>

<http://michellemalkin.com/2013/01/25/rotten-to-the-core-part-2-readin-writin-and-deconstructionism/>

<http://michellemalkin.com/2013/01/31/rotten-to-the-core-reader-feedback-from-the-frontlines/>

<http://michellemalkin.com/2013/03/01/rotten-to-the-core-part-iii-lessons-from-texas-and-the-growing-grassroots-revolt/>

<http://michellemalkin.com/2013/03/08/rotten-to-the-core-the-feds-invasive-student-tracking-database/>

ATTACHMENT 2

10 Reasons to Stop Common Core

1. **Conflict of Interest:** The people that established the Common Core Standards benefit financially from the standards they set up.
2. **Movement of Power:** The Common Core Standards take power away from families and local schools and give it to the government and business leaders. Keeping the power at the federal level will result in our schools changing their standards each time a new administration steps into office.
3. **Reform that relies on Standardized Tests:** The Department of Ed has committed 300 million dollars to the creation of these new tests, developed by two consortia (PARCC and Smarter Balanced). There will be little effort to teach skills that are not tested.
4. **One Size Fits All Education:** 45 states in our nation will be doing exactly the same thing in our schools. What if these new methods don't work for your child? The new math uses a different way of teaching than most of us grew up with.
5. **Drowning Out New Thinkers in Education:** Common Core believes it is the answer to education reform. We could miss the opportunity to listen to a new teaching method to help our children learn.
6. **Loss of Great Literature:** The Common Core Standards recommends that students spend 50% of their time in literature and 50% of their time reading informational text.

7. The Influence of Big Money: Education reform should not come from the people in America that make the most money. Common Core Standards were influenced by the Gates Foundation and that money was able to buy a lot of propaganda.

8. Can We Afford All This Change?: The state checkbook is struggling with money during these difficult economic times. How can we afford all the new text books, all the testing, the training, the new resources, etc.? Maybe our schools would rather hire a new teacher this year than buy more materials.

9. Teaching Our Children To Be Common: Schools can add only 15% of new material to the set standards. Teachers are forced to stay in a box. Everything the same! Everybody common! There is something to be said about a teacher that sees great potential in a student and lighting a spark with lessons that were developed for them.

10. Data Collecting: This should be every parent's worst fear! Records of physical and mental health, inappropriate behavior, disciplinary actions, test scores, personal information, etc... can now follow your child starting in pre-school to age 20. The information can be shared among government agencies and other private agencies that the school approves. This sharing can be done without your parental consent. This issue is so serious that EPIC (Electronic Privacy Inform Center) is suing the Department of Education.