

Cooper, Kathy

2976

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IRRC

**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2013 7:57 AM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 21 AM 9:10



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Heather

**Last Name:** Check

**Company:**

**Email:** [hmc@zoominternet.net](mailto:hmc@zoominternet.net)

**Subject:** Common Core/Standardized Testing

**Message:**

To Whom It May Concern: I am a concerned parent and educator. One of the concerns that I had and still have are the Common Core/PA Core standards. The over reliance and use of standardized testing. Plus, this ridiculous new teacher evaluation. I heard recently a statement was made at a local meeting that the core standards would not go through. Is this true? I thought that they had and it was just Ch. 4 changes that were still to be voted on. Valid research negates all the things that the so called, "reformers" or as I like to call them, the people with all the money that can buy and influence their voice whether valid or not, are selling. As a former educator yourself, I hope that you have taken some real time to really read these standards. They are NOT developmentally appropriate and no matter what our own Sec of Ed tells you or the propaganda tells you educators were not part of the writing process for the standards. Early Childhood standards are very inappropriate and not one early child person, i.e. psychologist, pediatrician, social worker, etc. participated in the formation of them. It seems to me that the very people who should be at the table always seem to be overlooked. We are professionals who do this every day and have degrees. We should be the ones helping to write "standards" and be giving the commentary. A lot of people are making decisions, big decisions about children, teachers, and education that have never spent an hour in a classroom or have a background in education, child development, etc. I ask that you stand up for the children. The stress is overwhelming on our kids. Is there still a chance that we don't have to buy into the core? Let's put the money from testing and the core into helping families combat hunger, poverty, and health issues. I ask that you read Valerie Strauss at the Washington Post and Diane Ravitch, but most importantly engage the teachers, parents, and students. I know that I am not "technically" a constituent in your area, but I work in one of your areas and have had the opportunity to engage you face-to-face and feel that you know I am a pretty straight forward person. I am here to advocate for my kids. I also ask that you encourage the Senators to not vote for the Senate Bill 1085, which would allow charters. I look forward to a response and love the opportunity to discuss further and even with more people. I have many colleagues that are better versed in the topic and can make a connection for you. Thank you for your time. Respectfully, Heather M. Check