

From: IRRC
Subject: FW: Opposition to Common Core System Education Implementation

From: Rich Julason [mailto:rdjulason@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 5:05 PM
To: Yohn, Cheryl
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2013 OCT 23 PM 1:47

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October 22, 2013

Cheryl A. Yohn, Director of Administration/Comptroller
The Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Subject: Opposition to Common Core System Education Implementation

Dear Ms. Wilmarth,

We must work together to stop the introduction and implementation of Common Core System (CCS) educational standards for the following reasons:

- CCS represents the ultimate centralized control of the American educational system at the federal government level when it is an individual state responsibility. This endeavor is comparable to the “train wreck” that was created by the Affordable Care Act which is a costly and dysfunctional nightmare that we can ill-afford to bestow upon our educational system and the PA State Budget.
- The initial costs and ongoing execution of the CCS will be prohibitive, creating large unfunded mandate at a time when the State of Pennsylvania is facing severe budgetary restraints.
 - CCS will require enormous expense in teacher training-tests and assessments
 - New books (of questionable value as related to United States history), faster computers, etc to implement the program.
- CCS was imposed upon the state governments by the Obama Administration by through the use of federal funding for education to the implementation of the CCS program.
- The PA State Board of Education (an unelected committee) unilaterally adapted the federally-controlled CCS in math and English (ELA) on 7/1/2010. They took upon themselves to do so without any empirical evidence that this costly, untested program would improve the PA educational system or learning outcomes. Thus denying the citizens and parents any chance to voice opinion or vote on this matter.

- There are serious concerns about the privacy rights of our children with the creation of a data file on each student starting in Kindergarten and following them through their entire schools years even onto college. This data base will contain:
 - Academic records and performance reports
 - Incidents of adverse behavior – a fact that is strange because the court systems always seal the records of juveniles, so why is the educational system developing a data base which can reviewed by anyone.
 - These records not only will contain information regarding the child but will also contain information regarding the parents as well, i.e. political affiliations and beliefs, etc.
 - These facts are of such questionable value and potential adverse impact on the students and their families that all legislators should be greatly concerned about this issue and stand strongly against the implementation of CCS
 - English literature classes will be replaced by Liberal propaganda concerning global warming and other leftist agenda materials.
 - Bill Gates (Microsoft founder) is a strong advocate for CCS implementation – his firm stands to benefit directly from CCS. This represents a conflict of interest because of the profits which will be gained.
- Many Pennsylvania State Representatives so strongly oppose the introduction and implement of CCS several of them have introduced the following proposed legislation in an effort to negate the Common Core System efforts:
 - HB 1551 – Repeal the State Board of Education Common Core Standards (Rep. Tallman)
 - HB 1552 – Exempt private, religious & home schools from Common Core (Rep. Bloom)
 - HB1553 – Prohibit National Standardized Assessments/Surveys (Rep. Kauffman)
 - HB1554 – Prohibit the Transfer of Individual Student Data to the Federal Government (Rep. Lawrence)
 - HB1555 – Establish an Advisory Committee & Moratorium on Implementation of the Common Core System (Rep. Tallman)

I and millions of Pennsylvania citizens will greatly appreciate your support and efforts to prevent the introduction and implementation of proposed Common Core System, let's keep educational costs down and retain Pennsylvania control of our educational system.

Sincerely,
Richard D Julason, Sr.