

Cooper, Kathy

2976

RECEIVED

From: Tracy Gould <tracyanngould@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 8:08 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: IRCC # 2976

NOV 13 2013

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. David Sumner,

I am in the fourth best school district in the state of PA. Why are we
FIXING SOMETHING THAT ISNT BROKEN?.

Over many decades TE parents and teachers have worked to make our schools
exceptional. Why not just take what works and emulate it in the
underperforming schools.

In TE we have already cut programs due to budgetary problem and face a
looming Pension Crisis. These cuts cause havoc in the community. We don't
want all of the unintended consequences that common core will cause.
Please don't fix what isn't broken here, we don't need common core.

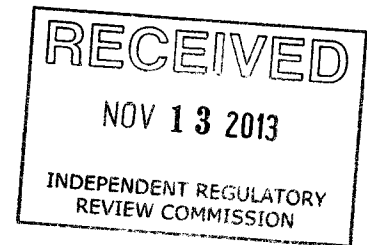
Sincerely,
Tracy Gould
Tracyanngould@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

2976
Cooper, Kathy

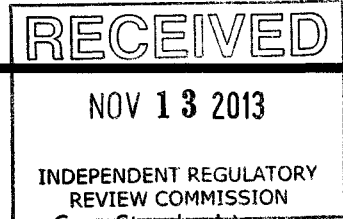
From: Clare Jameson <clarejameson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 8:58 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Common Core

Stop this terrible reform from taking place, PLEASE!



2976

Cooper, Kathy



From: Carol Klein <cmklein02@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 2:55 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Stop Implementation of PA Core Standards (Common Core Standards)

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am so skeptical of what the impact is on not only the student, their family, but the cost of education in the State of Pennsylvania due to the acceptance and implementation of the Common Core Standards.

The Department of Education and State Board should be required to submit and have a cost analysis reviewed for the impact of any proposal and regulation change they present.

So much has already be said about the objective of these standards and the loss of not only State control but parental control over a child's education.

I ask that you consider all the responses from concerned parents, grandparents and educators that have reviewed and commented on the significant fiscal and ethical problems with the acceptance and implementation of these Standards.

Thank you and we pray that you do not make these standards Pennsylvania law.

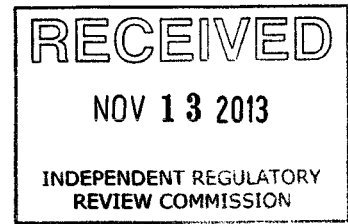


Carol Klein
308 Highland Ave.
Wallingford, PA 19086

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: dick@gouldinvestment.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 10:07 AM
To: pclymer@pahousegop.com; IRRRC
Subject: The expense and intrusion of Common Core



Dear Rep. Clymer,

Thank you for your efforts to investigate Common Core Standards. Carefully crafted perceptions are misleading. Clearly this is a top-down federal intrusion of state and local control of our children's education. The extra burden of cost to our school budgets and pensions is intolerable. Teachers here in Tredyffrin Township do not like the program because it detracts from their freedoms to tailor the best education to the student. I have three kids in the T/E schools and I am very worried that learning time is being diverted into excessive testing time and teaching to for the exam, rather than logically just giving the best overall education possible. Math curricula are dumbed down by two grades levels relative to other countries under Common Core. Please stop this monstrosity.

Keep up your good work. After extensive research, we are very strongly against Common Core and would consider homeschooling instead if it goes through. It won't stop there.

Dick Gould

Richard H. Gould, CFA CMT
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dick@gouldinvestment.com (email)

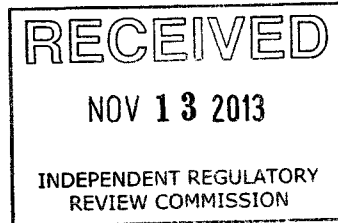
2976

Cheryl Masterman

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November 13, 2013

David Sumner, Executive Director
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

RE: NO on Chapter 4 Regulations

Dear Mr. Sumner,

Let the record show my request to reject the proposed Chapter 4 regulations. Keystone exams and Common Core standards should not be tied together and are BOTH an assault to critical thinking and creative problem solving in our educational system.

Mandated unfunded regulations like these are undemocratic. This is not how I want my tax dollars spent. \$65 million dollars to tell my son he understands content that he already demonstrated mastery of when he passed the class is a waste of my money and his time.

The state should be a better steward of our resources using that money wisely to fund quality public education for all. It is shameful to see this regulation proposal when Philadelphia public schools are losing nurses, counselors and teachers, and find themselves lacking books, folders, pens, paper, staplers, pencil sharpeners, or notebooks.

The entire high stakes testing movement is getting dangerously out of hand. Please take a good look at what concerned citizens are saying across the country. Let educators educate. Let politicians advocate for better education by supporting our educational system in a functional way. Use funds wisely. Educate yourself before you jump on the testing data bandwagon developed by publishing companies that make a mighty profit from your mandates at a cost to our children that is not only measured monetarily, but intellectually. You owe it to our youth, to give them the gift of time to apply their efforts to improvement not regurgitation.

What our country needs right now are graduates that have developed critical thinking skills and creative thought processes to deal with the rapidly, ever-changing world we live in. High stakes tests do not foster those skills and cannot measure them. High stakes, indeed, the stakes couldn't be higher.

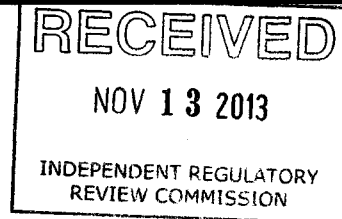
Concerned Tax Payer and Mother of Three,

Cheryl Masterman

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Robert Cardie <rcardie1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 7:27 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: why I think the common core is bad



The common core restricts the freedom of our communities to teach what they value rather than what our government, or the government in power values. The common core is an attempt to control the minds of our youth and to promote a liberal mindset. Can you imagine the type of material that would be in a child's textbook if Obama had his way? Is it a book you would have no concern about allowing your child read? I certainly would have major problems with it. Centralized power can only have destructive ramifications. It allows the spread of distorted thinking like moral relativism. Moral relativism leads to widespread amoral behavior, crime, and ultimately anarchy. The common core can weaken values such as a democratically elected government. It can diminish the value of capitalism and promote the values of government imposed sharing of wealth and ultimately communism. It can justify ideas like Nazism for the sake of the greater good of mankind. The common core suppresses innovative thought and family values. The best way to preserve our fragile and deteriorating democracy is to share the power and trust our local school communities. There is where the power should be. That is the reason our great nation was created. We rebelled against centralized power!

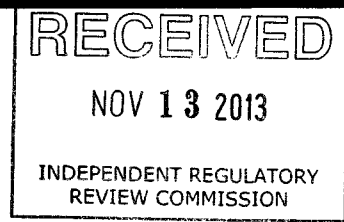
If there is a problem with education. If that is why the common core is being created. Then ask a teacher or guidance counselor what the major problem is with our schools. They will not say there is a problem with the curriculum. They will say that there is a problem with the family. A child's education vitally depends on the support of parents. Without parents supervising their children's progress at home, without their wholehearted effort supervising homework in the dining rooms and kitchens of their homes, schools will continue to produce less than acceptable graduates. Moreover, without the support of family life defined as a mother, a father, and children, not only schools, but society in general will continue to self destruct. The family is the building block of humanity. It has been under attack since the beginning of the women's movement and it will continue to cripple education and society until it receives the support it deserves. Schools are not broken, families are broken. Over 50% of our children in schools come from families that have suffered abandonment through divorce. A single mother or father cannot go to work and come home energized to help children learn their subjects along with dealing with providing food, clothing and shelter. Who suffer? What gets sacrificed? The children. Who gets blamed when Johnny fails? The schools.

Bob Cardie, High School Guidance Counselor
424 Alliston Rd.
Springfield, PA 19064

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: BuntingK@gtlaw.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 12:17 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: No to Keystone Exams



Dear Mr. Sumner:

I have a 9th grader and a 4th grader in the T/E school system in suburban PA. The whole reason we moved to the suburbs is for the fantastic school system. As I am sure you are aware, even in the wealthier of the areas of the state such as Wayne, our school systems are facing deficits. We cannot afford the Keystone Exams, we do not need them and we as parents do not want them. Public education is becoming more and more about teaching to the test instead of teaching for true understanding and therefore lifelong learning. NO MORE "BENCHMARK" TESTS. We respectfully ask that you stop the state's move towards implementing Keystone exams.

Thank you,

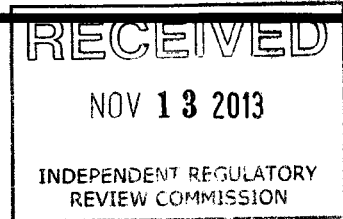
Kelly and Craig Bunting
1464 Potter Lane
Wayne, PA 19087

If you are not an intended recipient of confidential and privileged information in this email, please delete it, notify us immediately at postmaster@gtlaw.com, and do not use or disseminate such information. Pursuant to IRS Circular 230, any tax advice in this email may not be used to avoid tax penalties or to promote, market or recommend any matter herein.

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Rachel Langan <rachel.langan@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:38 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystones



I am a former public school educator and am now a parent to 5 children who attend public schools in Chester County. I urgently request that the IRRC not adopt the Keystones as a graduation requirement in PA. Students have already lost valuable class time and learning opportunities due to teachers spending this time prepping students for the Keystone tests.

My 9th grade daughter's Biology teacher said, "We won't be doing ANYTHING fun in here until AFTER the Keystones. Our entire year is spent preparing for the test. Once the Keystones are over we will start dissection and other fun activities but we just don't have time for those activities until after the test."

In my opinion, my daughter's educational experience is being damaged by the anticipated implementation of these tests. They Keystones DO NOT enhance her education AT ALL that I can see. Our children do not need more standardized tests. They need hands-on activities; they need passionate teachers; they need to foster a love of learning. No one fosters a love of learning through test preparation.

Please do NOT implement the Keystones as a graduation requirement.

Sincerely,

Rachel Langan
322 W Barnard Street
West Chester PA 19382
610.431.4717
rachel.langan@verizon.net

Cooper, Kathy

2976

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NOV 13 2013

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: Megan Grabowski <mjgrabowski@live.carlow.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 10:12 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: keystone exam

I am a parent of three children in the Carlynton School District, Allegheny County, PA. For years I have had to listen to my children whine about taking standardized exams, just as I did when we took CAT tests in school. The teachers are made into a nervous wreck by administrators and then pass their anxiety onto the students. Students come home scared and hating school. One of my children came home and said if she didn't do well on her test her teacher could get fired! This is what teachers are telling their students. It is appalling.

Furthermore, my children have come home with packets of work sheets that I am supposed to help them with. These worksheets are typically part of a 'study guide', but in reality, they are comprised of lessons that will either be presented later in the year (after the administration of exams) or are not factored into curriculum for their particular grade level. I have been told year after year, if I do not feed my children a 'good' breakfast and put them to bed a little earlier I am the reason for their poor scores. I am sick of teachers teaching to the tests and trying to calm stressed 3rd graders who carrying the burden of a teachers employment on their small shoulders.

There is more to education than standardized testing. There are more comprehensive and realistic alternatives to evaluating a teachers ability and an administrators capabilities than test scores.

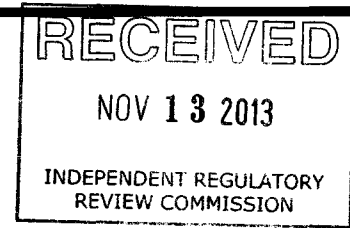
Today there exist more school policies failing our students than students failing school. I am 100% against the implementation of Keystone Exams and the unnecessary financial strain they will place upon Pennsylvania school districts. Reinstate art and music, drama and creative writing! Offer our students recess, fresh food at lunch. Include water in the price of lunch for students who receive free and reduced price meals and for goodness sake, grant our children an opportunity for 20- 30 minutes of downtime, perhaps even fresh air, during the school day and watch their grades improve.

Thank you for your consideration.

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Haddon <dnkhaddon1@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 11:01 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: IRRC Nov. 21 Mtg.



To Whom It May Concern:

We **oppose** the adoption of the *Common Core Standards and every affiliation with them* for our great state of Pennsylvania. This commonwealth became the "seed of a nation" precisely because it sought to be governed "by the people for the people." Common Core removes control of the education of our children, and decisions for curriculum and standards from the local level, to the federal. Decision-making is too far removed from the families and individuals who will be most affected by these judgements rendered at the federal level. To whom will Pennsylvania families turn for redress of shortcomings or failures with this system? Children grow; they don't wait while we send representatives to Washington D.C. to work out problems the federal government may not have foreseen, which effect the neighborhood school in Hometown, PA.

Additionally, this package is being accepted before all the standards and mandates of the program have even been formulated. This certainly fails the test of governing which is representative of the people of the State of Pennsylvania and their wishes. How can we "accept" a product before we fully know what it entails?

Please reject the proposed Chapter 4 Regulations. We must insure that regulations and decisions concerning the education of the children of Pennsylvania remain in the hands of our (local) community parents, educators, teachers, principals, school boards and, where necessary, state-level representatives. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,
Mr. and Mrs. David & Kathy Haddon
604 West Walnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603
717-397-7221

2976

Nov. 6, 2013

RECEIVED
IRRC

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Mr. David Sumner, Executive Director

I find myself wondering in amazement how the state government can pass bills or push programs through without due diligence. I literally thank God there is a Regulatory Review of Common Core!

It is unconscionable that a nationwide effort can be advanced without ever being piloted or fully researched. Absolutely no evidence has been produced to warrant the validity of Common Core.

Even more egregious is the cost factor! Carolyn Dumaresq has been asked directly by Senator Dimmick & numerous others to come up with an estimated cost to implement Common Core & the burden to each school district in Pennsylvania. Time & time again she failed to comply with the request. To this date the projected costs

and budget has not been realized.
What a way to run our state, our
country and be a good steward of tax-
payer's money. I guess that's why
we're 17 trillion in debt!

I'm certain that with your fair
review and analysis you will have
no choice but to come to the very
same conclusions.

Sharon Shaughnessy
Grandmother of 5
3755 Winchester Rd.
Allentown, PA 18104