

Cooper, Kathy

2976

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IRRC

From: Francis Leake [fmleake@gmail.com]
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Only bad things are ever accomplished by bypassing regular channels of procedure established for public involvement in matters of taxpayer funded social endeavors. The reasoning behind such bypassing is always the desire on the part of the few to implement some change or changes that are clearly unpopular but part of a conspiratorial agenda. In the case of IRRC Number 2976, we have such an example: Changing Chapter 4 education changes without proper public or legislative hearings.

Such maneuvering by an agency of the State Government is tantamount to usurpation of constitutional authority. Too many contemporary attempts are being made to circumnavigate the Constitution of the United States and the various State Constitutions and what you are about is just one more attempt.

Idaho, South Carolina and Indiana have already seen through this effort to globalize/federalize the American education system and have put their stamp of disapproval on the effort. Pennsylvania should do the same, but the IRRC agenda evidently rejects that, so therefore, you attempt to bypass the regular public examination requirements to place a higher burden on the PA taxpayer with no return in the already defunct public school arena.

There has been no open and transparent public debate on the national standards or their impact! What little bit of local control that Pennsylvania still has on education will be totally lost to federal control! The IRRC is deliberately moving forward in this effort to implement these massive changes while the legislature is not in session and everyone's attention is on the election.

Back in January, PA accepted \$41 million from the federal government with the provision that we implement national standards. There has only been one outside analysis done on the costs to PA taxpayers. The Pioneer Institute says it will cost us over \$650 million to implement this initiative. You should rethink this bypass and go about your business in a professional manner, not surreptitiously.

Francis M. Leake
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