

February 19, 2015

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Dear House Education Committee,

I am submitting this letter to you today, in support of HB 2292. I first began researching Common Core after receiving a forwarded article from my mother-in-law – that was two years ago. At that time my children were four and one, and I was just beginning to take time to learn more about education issues. I quickly became active in the state effort to repeal Common Core and restore local education.

As you all know, this is the third session to have legislation introduced regarding Common Core, and each year the support has continued to grow. There are many reasons that more and more parents, teachers, and concerned citizens are becoming more engaged and active on this issue – the poor quality of Math and ELA Standards, the developmental inappropriateness of the standards, loss of parental rights, centralization of control over education, and intrusive data-mining. Please read the “Top Ten Things Parents Hate About Common Core” by Joy Pullmann (attached with my testimony).

Kansas can do better than Common Core! It is very important that we restore education to Kansas - not continue down the road of federal centralization, heavily influenced by private organizations. I hope you will also take time to read “Controlling Education From the Top – Why Common Core is Bad for America” by Emmett McGroarty and Jane Robbins, also attached with my testimony.

*Looking ahead the states face a difficult battle to prevent further erosion of their sovereignty and their abilities to guard the interests of their citizens. The Common Core Initiative, coupled with the federal effort to drive its adoption, has brought about national content standards owned by the private interests that created them – not by any state and not by the federal government.<sup>82</sup> The educational systems now rest in the hands of private organizations that an individual state cannot control. And, having stripped the people of effective political power and put it in the hands of private interests, the owners of the Standards attempt to insulate themselves from legal liability to the people with broad disclaimers for any damage the Standards might cause.<sup>83</sup>*

Controlling Education from the Top – Why Common Core is Bad for America  
Emmett McGroarty and Jane Robbins

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 2292. Thank you for your time.