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Subject: HB 1508
From: Christine Mukai <rgav1958@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 19, 2014 7:46 pm
To: HouseEducationCommittee@leg.state.nh.us
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I am writing to you today to encourage you to support HB 1508 Terminating State Participation in the Common Core Educational Standards.

I believe that Common Core State Standards (CCSS) has been forced upon the citizens of NH without their consideration as a national education reform program which is contrary to the NH State Constitution. I believe decisions about educational reform are best decided upon and developed at the local level, and CCSS removes the power from the local level and gives it to obscure parties who have developed untested standards. CCSS will cripple our students in an effort to "get rid of the gaps in learning between them" and hold every child at the same low bar in this effort. Children have but one education; they are not rats in a cage to be tested. CCSS will create generations of sub-par educated citizens and cripple not only the state of NH, but the entire country in its ability to compete in the world.

From my understanding, there were only two meetings held to discuss and debate CCSS before the NH Board of Education formally adopted them. These meetings were held on June 9 and July 8, 2010 and can be viewed via the following link:

<http://www.nhboardofeducation.com/>

In the June meeting it is revealed that the two CCSS documents (ELA and Math standards) consisting of a total of 120 pages were released that same week which did not give everyone a chance to thoroughly review them, and their complete review by everyone present including outside teachers was being hastily expedited in order to get Race To The Top funding (which NH never received). At no time during either meeting was there any discussion about higher quality standards or even a comparison of CCSS to higher quality standards.

Chair John Lyons speaks clearly about his reservations about adopting the standards (as well as other very good concerns), that there was not enough time for everyone to read the documents with great care to vote on adopting them in July, and disliked the centralization of CCSS and felt their approval was being forced upon the state of NH in order to meet the Race To The Top Application deadline of August 2nd. He felt, strongly, that they would undermine local and state control over education, and stated multiple times that he had, "serious, serious concerns", and which, to my knowledge, his concerns have still not been answered to this day!

Five voting members were present that July day (where was the rest of the committee? On vacation?); four voted yea, one voted nay. The decision to adopt CCSS was made by four voting members on a topic so important to the children and their families of this state silently during the heat of the summer when most people are on vacation.

Additionally, the cost of implementing CCSS has not been ascertained with its increase purchases of texts, tests, outside hires and computer technology to support its implementation. Finally, the data mining efforts involved in CCSS are reprehensible and are an affront to our children's dignity.

I strongly urge to to vote in support of HB 1508!

Christine Mukai
Amherst, NH

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