

March 6, 2013

Testimony for House Education Committee

Re: Common Core Curriculum in Kansas

By: Larry & Christine Tawney, as individuals; as members of Flint Hills TEA Party of KS & Kansans for Liberty

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Dear Representatives of the Education Committee:

We are Kansas taxpayers and have watched carefully the downward trend of academic excellence in our state. As your fellow Kansans, I strongly urge and ask for your vote to move HB 2289 and 2350 out of the Education Committee for a full House vote.

It is time for Kansas to end its involvement with any further implementation of Common Core standards, just as many other states are doing. HB 2289 does this by stopping the spending of any monies for implementation. HB 2350 would end our involvement with federal education mandates altogether by not accepting the money. We believe that these mandates are costing the state more money to implement than the monetary value received.

The education curriculum standards debate no longer belongs to just the Federal government, the Governor's Association, NEA and special interest groups. It belongs to the parents and the people of Kansas, along with local school boards and districts.

Kansas must lead the nation, not follow.

Our children are not a game piece or a constant roll of the dice by the latest federal government educational curriculum standards and mandates with strings attached.

Attached is an example of just one of the mandates being proposed at the federal level to be implemented and taught.

A decision that affects the entire state of Kansas should be worked by all Representatives of the State of Kansas and not be determined by a select few assigned to a committee. No state monies should be spent to implement standards that the State of Kansas has no control over. Only the State of Kansas should set the high academic standards for what Kansas students are taught. Just as with No Child Left Behind, Common Core standards will leave the teachers with no choice but to teach for the assessment tests. Despite what is being touted, this will not allow local control by the school districts.

Because Kansans have a desire for higher standards, maintaining those high academic values should remain held at the state and local levels not guided by entities distantly removed from the people. It is in that element of being near the people that we urge you to support HB 2289 and 2350. Whether our votes were cast directly for you or not, your vote affects us. This letter represents the feelings of many Kansans across the state and in all districts. We along with many others are looking forward to seeing you in the district at townhall meetings to either thank you or to question your decision.

Sincerely,

/s/Larry and Christine Tawney

March 5, 2013 4:30 PM

Members Flint Hills TEA Party of KS

Members Kansans for Liberty