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**Testimony on HB 2289**  
**By**  
**Jana Shaver**  
**Kansas State Board of Education**

Madame Chair, members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Jana Shaver and I serve as the Chairman of the Kansas State Board of Education. I appreciate this opportunity to come before you and share some information about the State Board's process in adopting the Kansas Common Core Standards, now known as the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards.

One of the primary responsibilities of the State Board is to provide for academic standards for Kansas schools. In our state, content standards are reviewed on a regular basis, typically every seven years. As part of that process, a committee is formed to review, revise or rewrite the standards. The committee membership includes broad representation from content area experts in grades K-12, as well as higher education and community members. The committee works to develop a draft standards document that is reviewed by others in the education field, as well as member of the public, and is then revised based on feedback. Throughout that process, the State Board is kept apprised of the progress of the committee, and is also given an opportunity to review at least one draft prior to considering the final draft for adoption.

When the Common Core Standards were being developed - from Nov. 2009 through June 2010 - we followed a similar process. We formed review committees for both the math and the English language arts standards. The executive review committees for each content area consisted of approximately 10 people, representing teachers in the content area, higher education representatives, special education and English Language Learner (ELL) instructors and, on the ELA committee, literacy coaches and reading specialists. Each content area also had larger review committees providing feedback to the executive committee. The larger committees included K-12 administrators and teachers, higher education representatives, special education and ELL instructors. Those committees reviewed each draft of the standards and provided feedback to the standards writing committees. Throughout that process, the State Board received updates on the progress of the standards from either the Commissioner or from KSDE staff.

As early as April 2010, the Board reviewed information regarding the feedback being provided by the Kansas committees, as well as through the public review of the standards draft, to the standards writing committee. The draft standards were made available for public review in March 2010.

In July of that year, Board members received an additional report on the development of the standards, including the work being done by the Kansas committees to review the standards

and the additions being made to the standards by the Kansas committees. In September, members of the review committees presented the final draft of the standards to the State Board with a recommendation that they be adopted, and in October of that year, after multiple opportunities to consider the input of the Kansas committees, our Board voted to adopt the Common Core State Standard for English language arts and Mathematics.

We did so not because of pressure by the State Department of Education or by the federal government – because there was none. We adopted the Kansas Common Core Standards because we believed, after thorough review and consideration, they were the best standards to ensure Kansas students would be ready to enter and be successful in college or the workforce upon their high school graduation. Ensuring we act in the best interests of Kansas students is the responsibility of the State Board of Education and every one of our members takes that responsibility seriously.

Our board supports the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts and mathematics. We fear that passage of this bill would be costly both financially and in terms of the educational progress of our students because it would necessitate repeating the time consuming and labor intensive process I've described to you in my testimony. While we did that, our students, teachers and schools would be in limbo with no standards against which to measure their achievement or progress. I ask you not to put Kansas students in that position.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Respectfully submitted,

Jana Shaver

Chair, Kansas State Board of Education