



ADVANCING FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

January 27, 2014

Senator
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Family Research Council (FRC), and the families we represent, I want to urge you to support and cosponsor S. 182, Senator Roberts' (R-KS) Learning Opportunities At the Local (LOCAL) Level Act. This legislation prevents the Obama Administration's coercion of states into adopting Common Core and other top-down education standards through Race to the Top grants, waivers and other mandates. This important legislation preserves the accountability, flexibility and innovative decision making that is best realized at the state and local level by parents and educators closest to the affected students. Education belongs in the hands of parents and local schools, not bureaucrats in Washington.

The Common Core educational standards were developed by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The K-12 standards were funded through Race to the Top grants which were funded in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5; 123 Stat. 282). The standards were subsequently presented to states as a way to ensure uniform educational outputs and make students career and college ready. Unfortunately, the Common Core fails to adequately prepare school children for college and will threaten America's ability to compete in the 21st century.

Recently, the Department of Education has begun conditioning certain waivers from onerous education requirements on state's acceptance of Common Core. What began as a voluntary program that states could freely adopt has morphed into a vehicle for the administration to foist its preferred education policy on states.

We know that a child performs best in school when teachers are able to identify a student's needs and teach to their strengths. The Common Core completely removes a teacher's ability to tailor lessons individually, and instead presents standards and assessments that provide little to no opportunity to be amended.

Additionally, although the Common Core is only being implemented in public schools across the country (45 states have adopted Common Core), these educational standards will also negatively impact charter and private schools, as well as homeschool students, as college entrance exams will be adapted to reflect the Common Core teaching standards.

On behalf of the Family Research Council, I urge you to support and cosponsor S. 182, Senator Roberts' Learning Opportunities At the Local (LOCAL) Level Act. Education belongs in the hands of parents and local schools.

Sincerely,

David Christensen
Vice President for Government Affairs