

Dear Chairman Kelley and education committee members:

I am a local BOE member here in Wamego, Kansas. I have grave concerns over the national CCS being forced upon our schools here in Kansas. As a sovereign state it is imperative that we retain local control of our schools and the curriculum being taught. Local community members know what is best for their children's education and should be allowed that authority.

It is my understanding that the CCS have not been vetted properly with little participation from qualified state representatives who have a stake in this matter. Surely we did not accept this on good faith from the federal government that this would be a great program with no repercussions. An undertaking of this magnitude should have been transparent from the start with qualified educational experts from each state at the table to discuss this matter in greater detail.

I would very much like to see this committee and the state legislature reject the CCS for our state until we can see what the impact is on the states who accept it. Other than losing federal money for a few years, there should be no great hurry in adopting these standards. If, at a later date, we deem this to be a good thing we can adopt the standards at that time. I would rather miss some money on the front end than commit to something detrimental in the long run that could be harmful to our state, both educationally and financially. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Mark Bettencourt, USD 320 BOE