Testimony against Common Core and Federally Controlled Testing
Stefanie Huffaker
Resident of Imlay City, MI
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Good Afternoon Senators,
My name is Stefanie Huffaker. I am a mother to six children and am a homeschooler of 18 years, but have also used the public school as a tool for two of those children during high school. Two of my children are here today and wish to speak as well.

This is my third time testifying against Common Core. The first time, I spoke regarding the questionable beginning of this process with a bait and switch back in 2010: remember, that chance to possibly win Race to the Top Funds that turned quietly into forfeiting our constitutional state right to control our own curriculum by adopting standards that weren't even written yet?

The second time I came, I spoke more to the questionable content that is without **any** ounce of research, study or statistics to back it up and how my husband, a physician, would go to jail for prescribing any treatment plan that was without years and years of research and study.
I still have not seen any research, because, of course, there hasn't been any.

After the hearings in October, there was a clause added to the Resolution that stated that Homeschoolers were exempt from Common Core. I appreciate that, but we all know that there is no legal binding to that resolution. I am afraid that the inclusion of that phrase was for some, just an attempt, if I can quote Rep. Kelly, "to marginalize the naysayers."

But alas, I am here again.

Today I would like to just make a few comments regarding you as fellow parents and then as lawmakers.

As parents, I think we share the belief that no one loves our kids as much as we, parents, do. And no one knows them and what they individually need as much as we do. It is bad enough that when there is a problem in the school setting, we can't just fixed it as the parent. We need to go through teachers and principals and maybe school board members. But where do we go if we don't agree with the results of one of these Federally controlled tests? Washington DC? If we make a big stink about something in the curriculum, what happens? Do we get audited by the IRS? Some may chuckle at that, but seriously, Common Core is just Obamacore, the twin of Obamacare, and that is giving us a pretty good picture right now of what we get when the Federal government is in charge of something.

We all know that the money lender controls everything. If the Federal Government is funding **all** the testing for **all** Michigan public school children, and testing dictates the

curriculum which dictates the class lessons, the Federal Government **is** controlling what your kids are learning. Currently, it is just public schools but the desire is for all students everywhere to be doing things in common. That means that the educational freedom of all private schools, charter schools, and homeschoolers is hugely threatened. If everyone has to do the same thing, then there are no options left for your family if one of your children needs something different.

Lastly, as legislators, your job is to represent the people. Your vote last fall to pass the resolution to continue funding Common Core was very disappointing, if not, down right shameful. Just a voice vote, where no one is on record? How are you representing us if we can't even tell what your vote was? Senator Richardville said there was no need for a roll call vote. Attendance here today would suggest otherwise.

In closing, if Common Core is the next best thing since sliced bread why aren't you expressing your opinion in favor of it openly? There are very few proponents that can say anything concrete and positive besides the catch phrase of, "Career and college readiness in a Twenty First Century Global Economy," so why is this still moving forward here in Michigan? The current momentum is actually moving away from Common Core now with 9 states saying "No" to it in the last few months. I am concerned that there is a lot of deal making going on behind close doors to get this system fully implemented in Michigan.

I appeal to your sense of honor and responsibility as a parent to do what is best for the future of your children and my children and future generations. I appeal to your sense of honor and responsibility as a Michigan lawmaker to protect our state's rights in a transparent way.

Please say "No" to federal testing and keep Washington out of Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration.

My name is Olivia Huffaker. I am 14 and have been a full time homeschooler my entire life.

Common Core takes away our liberty regarding education.

Why do we want to change? Why do we need to change? Who said Common Core is the way to go? What even is Common Core, (besides a billion dollar lottery that we already lost)? When did Common Core become the new educational fashion? How is Common Core better than what we have now?

Common Core is a way for the federal government to slowly pick away at our freedom. First we can't pick how we learn, then we can't home school, then we can't have a certain amount of food in our homes, then we have to watch what we say, then soon enough we will be bowing down to whatever the President says.

Why do you want us to be common? I thought being different was a sign that you are your own person, which means you don't have to do what everybody else does.

Why not just wait it out to see how it's going for the other states and then start talking about it?

Thank you for your time.

My name is Isabel Huffaker. I am 11 and I have been homeschooling my entire life with five older siblings.

I saw a sheet of paper with Common Core math questions and answers. They were simple addition and subtraction questions that I could easily do in my head. Then I looked at the answer. Why did it seem so complicated? They went around the question. They went the long way and made it so complicated. Are all the Common Core tests like that? Are they trying to make kids stupid? Here's an example of another question I found last night on the Common Core State Standards Initiative website:

e.g., 13 – 4 = 13 – 3 – 1 = 10 – 1 = 9 (see below for exact quote)

What's wrong with just saying 13 - 4 = 9 ??

Then, after Common Core takes over all public schooling, we homeschoolers are next. We will lose all freedom of our education and of our children's education and our grandchildren's education!

Please don't let Common Core take over in Michigan. Thank you for listening.

http://www.corestandards.org/math/content/1/oa/c/6
Add and subtract within 20, demonstrating fluency for addition and subtraction within 10. Use strategies such as counting on; making ten (e.g., 8 + 6 = 8 + 2 + 4 = 10 + 4 = 14); decomposing a number leading to a ten (e.g., 13 – 4 = 13 – 3 – 1 = 10 – 1 = 9); using the relationship between addition and subtraction (e.g., knowing that 8 + 4 = 12, one knows 12 – 8 = 4); and creating equivalent but easier or known sums (e.g., adding 6 + 7 by creating the known equivalent 6 + 6 + 1 = 12 + 1 = 13).