

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



Post Office Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 13, 2013

The Honorable Alfred Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 953 by Representative Walt Leger

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 953 would significantly impair parents' ability to have clear information about the performance of their child's school and teachers' ability to have meaningful feedback. The bill sacrifices the important education reforms supported by this Legislature in 2010 and 2012 in order to implement a set of national standards and tests that take away local control and standardize our education system.

Louisiana needs to raise the academic performance of our students so we can compete in the 21st century, but not at the expense of handing away our school system to the federal government through Common Core and PARCC, and sacrificing the important reforms that empower parents to choose the best school for their children.

The opposition to this bill has come from both sides of the Common Core issue. The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, Louisiana Federation for Children, Black Alliance for Educational Options, Stand for Children, Louisiana Association of Charter Schools, and the Council for a Better Louisiana opposed the bill during the Legislative session because it delays reform and deprives our children of high quality teachers, accountable administrators, and clear information about the performance of their schools. Others opposed the bill for enshrining Louisiana's participation in Common Core and PARCC. The Louisiana School Boards Association, the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, and the Louisiana Association of Educators also opposed the bill during the session. They are joined by countless parents who have requested a veto.

Given the widespread opposition and the gravity of any decision that affects our children, I have vetoed House Bill No. 953 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

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House of Representatives
Clerk's Office