SLS 13RS-675 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY SENATOR CROWE

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. Requests BESE and the Department of Education to withdraw from the Common Core State Standards Initiative and cease all activities related to implementation of such standards.

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1 2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Education to withdraw from the Common Core State Standards 3 Initiative and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers 4 and to immediately terminate all plans, programs, activities, and expenditures 5 relative to implementation of the common core state standards and any instruction 6 7 and testing based upon such standards. 8 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 1, of the Louisiana Constitution directs the 9 legislature to provide for the education of the people of the state, and further requires the 10 legislature to establish and maintain a public educational system; and WHEREAS, the Common Core State Standards Initiative, also known as the 11 "Common Core", was initially undertaken by a voluntary collective of states, including 12 13 Louisiana, at the behest of the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers; and 14 WHEREAS, the Common Core that resulted from this effort is not based upon state 15 or local standards, but is comprised of nationally-based standards and tests primarily 16 developed by non-governmental organizations and unelected, unaccountable boards and 17 consortia based outside of the state of Louisiana and has been unduly influenced by the 18

interven	tion of	the	federal	government;	and
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WHEREAS, development of the Common Core was financed by private foundations, thereby using wealth and influence to bypass local school boards, usurp the authority of the state legislature, and impose control over Louisiana's education standards and related tests; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Common Core binds the state to an established copyright over standards, which the state has limited ability to alter; and

WHEREAS, although the General Educational Provisions Act prohibits federal authority over curriculum and testing, the U.S. Department of Education's cooperative agreements tacitly confirm that the Common Core's test-building and data collection functions are federally managed; and

WHEREAS, student behavior indicators including testing for mental health, social and cultural habits (including religious practices), and family status will be used for Common Core tests and assignments; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core violates state and federal privacy laws by requiring the storing and sharing of private student and family data, without consent, using a preschool through post-graduate tracking system and a federally-funded State Longitudinal Database, thus creating surveillance capability between states and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core violates constitutional and statutory prohibitions by pressuring states to adopt these common standards through the use of financial incentives tied to the federal Race to the Top program, with attendant penalties for noncompliance; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core is an unproven experiment on a grand scale which, as yet, lacks sufficient supporting empirical data, and, if implemented, will remove traditional math, replace classic literature with increased technical reading, and prohibit teachers from reviewing the tests, depriving them of information needed to tailor classroom instruction in the best manner to ensure student success; and

WHEREAS, this top-down, autocratic process and the foundational principles driving the Common Core undermine the teacher's role and utterly fail to support the American ideals of local control and parental choice in education, standards, and testing; and

WHEREAS, five states - Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, and Virginia -

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rejected the Common Core from the start, and the increasing concern with the Common Core is evidenced by the fact that Indiana recently passed legislation pulling out of the Common Core initiative, and at least twelve other states are currently considering prohibiting implementation of the Common Core state standards.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Education to withdraw from the Common Core State Standards Initiative and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers and to immediately terminate all plans, programs, activities, and expenditures relative to implementation of the Common Core state standards and any instruction and testing based upon such standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president and each member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state superintendent of education.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

## DIGEST

Crowe SCR No. 68

Requests BESE and the Department of Education to withdraw from the Common Core State Standards Initiative and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers and to immediately terminate all plans, programs, activities, and expenditures relative to implementation of the common core state standards and any instruction and testing based upon such standards.