

Supporting The Reintroduction and Passage Of New York State Assembly Bill 07994 And Senate Bill 06267, An Act To Amend The Education Law, In Relation To The Common Core State Standards Initiative And The Race To The Top Program

Referred to: The Legislative Programs, Education, and Community Services Committee (Chairman David Donaldson and Legislators Archer, Gregorius, Lopez, and Wawro)

Legislator Craig Lopez offers the following:

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 07994 and Senate Bill 06267 have been introduced in the 2013-2014 Legislative Session which amends Education Law Section 116 to discontinue implementation of the common core state standards developed by the common core state standards initiative and declares any action taken to adopt or implement the common core state standards void; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 and 2010, New York State was offered the chance to compete for education funding through the “Race to the Top” program created by the U. S. Department of Education (“ED”); and

WHEREAS, the only way to achieve a score in the competition sufficient to qualify for funding was to agree to “participation in a consortium of States that is working toward jointly developing and adopting a common set of K-12 standards”; and

WHEREAS, the only such “common set of K-12 standards” existent at that time, or since, is known as the Common Core State Standards Initiative (“CCSSI”) and was developed without a grant of authority from any state; and

WHEREAS, the CCSSI standards were released in June 2010, and to meet the ED “Race to the Top” requirements the State had only 60 days to evaluate them and agree to adopt them and were not offered an option to modify those standards before their adoption; and

WHEREAS, local education officials, school leaders, teachers, and parents were not included in the discussion, evaluation and preparation of the CCSSI standards that would affect students in this State; and

WHEREAS, the National Assessment of Educational Progress national test already exists and allows comparisons of academic achievement to be made across the states, without the necessity of imposing national standards, curricula, or assessments; and

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WHEREAS, imposing a set of national standards is likely to lead to the imposition of a national curriculum and national assessment upon the various states, in violation of the General Education Provisions Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and the Department of Education Organization Act; and

WHEREAS, when no less than 22 states face budget shortfalls and Race to the Top funding for states is limited, \$350 million for consortia to develop new assessments aligned with the CCSI standards will not cover the entire cost of overhauling state accountability systems, which includes implementation of standards and testing and associated professional development and curriculum restructuring; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature emphatically urges New York state lawmakers to re-introduce and support the passage of New York State Assembly bill 07994 and Senate bill 6267 to discontinue the implementation of the Common Core State Standards developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative which interfere with State and local control of public schools; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges our New York State Legislature to get further involved in the current debate over Common Core, to halt implementation of the standards while a state initiative is pursued to do due diligence and perhaps take an independent state-based approach to the improvement of our education system in New York State; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly and Senate Education Committee Chairmen, and all Ulster County elected Assemblymen and Senators,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

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Passed Committee: Legislative Programs, Education, and Community Services on
_____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE