

Testimony at Syracuse, NY at OCC on November 10, 2015

Good evening everyone, my name is Bill Dermady and I am a parent of 3 children and I have 6 grandchildren, 2 caught up in this Common Core nightmare, their names are Clayton who lives in Maryland and Madison who lives in Massachusetts and one soon to be, Madison's brother Liam.

This Common Core nightmare must end immediately. Common Core means to me four things, high stakes testing, APPR, student data mining and the modules.

I realize every school district does not use the modules, but at my school district the Thousand Islands Central School , they are mandatory.

Approximately 70% of NY State students have failed the Common Core ELA and Math tests three years in a row. We're losing a whole generation of students, how many more years are we going to wait before we end this nightmare?

Let's not forget the "architect of the Common Core , David Coleman, is not a teacher, and yet he has changed education as we know it today. We need to scrap Common Core in its entirety and let educators write the standards. It's time we tell Governor Cuomo and his hedge fund billionaires we are not going to let them privatize our public schools.

New York State parents are becoming more aware every day how harmful the ELA and Math tests are and they are refusing to let their children take the tests. If this harmful testing continues we will have half a million opt outs next year.

Also Mr Kremer it's time you and the New York State School Boards Association supported the students, teachers and parents and not Arne Duncan, Gov. Cuomo, commissioner Elia and the State education department.

Thank you  
Bill Dermady