

I attended two of John Kings forums three years ago, and I was shocked at the amount of people in attendance. As I listened to all the stories of children breaking down and needing therapy to be able to endure school, testing, and homework, I realized I wasn't fighting alone anymore.

I had been fighting my local school district the prior year because something was wrong with my son. He wasn't getting an education through his tears. It was there at those forums that I realized the nightmare I suffered in my home was an epidemic. Surely they'll stop it now. They have too.

When the hearings were over, I cried the day John King more or less said IT'S GOOD FOR OUR CHILDRENS FUTURE AND FULL SPEED AHEAD. What our children and families were going through didn't matter. I knew this for a fact.....I was there. Shame on you and Governor Cuomo if New York State doesn't care again.

Now let's take those stories of psychologically effected and struggling children and add a special need or two. In my sons case for example, let's add a visual impairment and ADHD. Common core created the perfect storm for him.

The schools remedy? Skip lunch or recess and stay after school for extra help. Then go home and do three hours of homework, along with the classwork you couldn't complete in school.

My son shut down and ended up hospitalized last year. He had no history of mental illness before common core hit.

The violations of IEPs and wrights law regarding a fair and appropriate education for special needs kids, ARE being violated throughout the state.

In closing I will give one quick true story about a 3rd grader.

Johnny worked hard on his math homework. He was a smart boy, and math seemed to come easy to him. Johnny loved how proud his parents were of him for his 'special math brain'.

Johnny got the answers correct, but the teacher marked them wrong and wrote on Johnny's paper that he needed to write down how he got his answer. Johnny wrote back to his teacher. He drew a picture of his brain to tell the teacher how he got his answers.

Johnny, you have your own brain and your brain is smart. But in our schools now in our country, the United States of America, we follow the brains of very rich men. We didn't vote for these rich brains to make these very important decisions about your young brain and how it learns. They purchased your brain with a whole lot of money, and because of that, your brain has to work the way they say. That's why you got the answer wrong.

Johnny's mother went to her local school board meeting about her son becoming stressed, depressed, and full of anxiety about going to school. He used to love math and school and now he hates it. His strength has turned into his weakness. Her local school board said there was nothing they could do about it. They replied "Poor Johnny, but our goal for Johnny is to do well in college". The mother cried.....