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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/REQUEST FOR MEDIA COVERAGE**

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***Local Education Advocacy Group supports Senators Zeldin and Ball Common Core Senate Bill S. 6604 and Assembly Bill by Assemblymen Ra and Graf***

**Port Chester, New York**— The Founders of **STOP Common Core in New York State**, a parent and teacher advocacy group, have publicly come out in support of the Senate Bill S. 6604 and the accompanying Assembly Bill that has yet to be assigned a number. Both bills place a three-year suspension on items such as the Common Core State Standards and the associated age-inappropriate curriculum. It will also address the excessive testing that has placed unnecessary stress on family and classroom life.

The bill was released Wednesday, February 12, 2014, at a press conference in Albany by Senator Zeldin and details the following recommendations:

- Creation of a Blue Ribbon Panel Commission on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Testing and Curriculum
- Suspension of the Common Core Testing
- Suspension of Common Core Curriculum
- Waiver from Race to the Top obligations related to Common Core

"This newly released legislation is a meaningful step in the right direction. It will address our immediate parental concern of classroom pressures that have turned daily education into a near nightmare for students across the state. It also returns necessary reform adjustments to local professionals who best understand the reforms needed on the local level," noted Glen Dagleish, co-founder of Stop Common Core in New York State. "During this three-year period we won't rest on our laurels but this bill allows for reform efforts that meet local needs, and it guarantees that Common Core, as it is designed, is eliminated from the educational landscape."

Dr. Joe Rella, Superintendent of Comsewogue School District, issued this statement: "Last August, the 2000+ people gathered at Comsewogue HS unanimously adopted resolution regarding the Common Core: STOP IT - FIX IT - or SCRAP IT!!! S6604 and the companion bill presented by Assemblymen Ra and Graf DO JUST THAT!!!!"

Christine Tamke Barbara, a parent with a child with special education needs, explains, "The implementation of Common Core is a violation of IDEA. As a result, waivers, modifications, accommodations, and alternate assessments are not being implemented in accordance with the individual student's IEP/504. This bill will restore our students' rights to a free and appropriate education, based on their individual needs, as opposed to a cookie cutter; one-size-fits-all curriculum and assessments."

Denis Ian, a secondary-level master teacher of 34 years, concluded, "This bill returns sanity to the effort for meaningful and appropriate reform that will allow for reasoned prescriptions for local districts...without the Common Core charade of 'one-size-fits' all." It is NOT an anti-reform bill in the least...rather it's an opportunity for NY to repair what is broken and to shine what is succeeding. That's the sort of clean-thinking rationale Common Core cannot deliver."

And Mary Calamia, a Clinical Social Worker, has seen her business boom since Common Core has been rolled out. She said, "We now have an opportunity to immediately relieve the undue stress that Common Core has caused the children, parents, and teachers of New York State to suffer. I can only hope the remainder of the country follows suit."

“We sincerely hope that all parents and teachers will support this legislation. We believe this is a vital part of the future of education in the great state of New York,” said Gasperino in closing. “Let’s get behind this legislation and get back to the business of students learning and educators teaching.”

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**About STOP Common Core in New York:**

STOP Common Core in New York State was launched in April, 2013 by Yvonne Gasperino and Glen Dagleish to inform, equip and empower parents as to the consequences of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) agenda, providing essential information to parents of school-age children regarding the loss of local and parental control, data mining, high-stakes testing, elimination of school choice, school tax dollars and the imminent threat to New York’s educational sovereignty. [www.StopCommonCoreinNewYork.com](http://www.StopCommonCoreinNewYork.com)