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GOVERNORS PATTERSON AND CUOMO

Governor Paterson signed on-sight unseen with Governor Cuomo expediting the CCS (Common Core State Standards) agenda.

Good evening, President _____ and board members:

My name is _____. I come before you tonight to give you my concerns and reasons about Common Core State Standards Initiative. It is the new federal education program that then Governor Paterson *quietly signed in 2009, with Governor Cuomo NOT stopping the CCSS agenda when he came into office.* It is now being implemented in all of our districts across New York State.

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Most people have not yet heard of **COMMON CORE State Standards; that was by design. **We** were not supposed to know about it. Congress did not know about it either. Both Congress and all of the State legislators in the 45 States that signed onto it were bypassed in the decision-making.**

Why? Because that is the way the Administration and the Federal Department of Education designed it. They hired Achieve, Inc. to write the Common Core State Standards then worked in conjunction with two national consortiums SBAC, which is known as Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and

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PARCC, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College & Career.

The current Administration then realized they needed to make this look like a state-generated initiative. So they engaged the NGA, National Governors Association and the CCSSO, Council of Chief State Officers both of which are DC based trade associations, *neither of which had a grand of authority from states to write national school standards.* This made the implementation of the CCSS efforts much easier to slip it into the States without a lot of controversy and haggling. They did not want it debated.

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The current Administration went to the Governors directly while their legislatures were not in session, so neither a discussion, nor a vote by the legislators was held. Cleverly, the Administration pressed the Governors to sign giving them just a small window of time even before the actual standards, curriculum, and assessment tests could be seen or were even written.

Common Core pretends to be a benign “State” program, State-written and state-controlled. It is touted as being “more rigorous” and that it will “better prepare students for college and the workplace.”

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We are told by the Administration that Common Core standards were “voluntarily” adopted by the states that have signed onto the program. *Actually, it was more like the States were “coerced” by tempting them with enormous stimulus grant money, a waiver to get out of “No Child Left Behind’s”* rigid requirements and threatening to take away Title I funds if the States did not sign on.

However, I am afraid none of the above is true. Common Core is really a deceptive Trojan Horse, a national federal program, written by a multitude of for-profit corporations, supported by the current Administration and the Federal Department of

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Education. It is imposing a national, top-down standards and curriculum on all of the 45 States that have signed on to it.

This new education program, preparing the way for “Race to the Top Assessments,” will take place in 2013/2014 when all the computer software is in place to test the minds of the nation’s children to see how well Common Core has been sufficiently taught.

Funding for CCSS will cease for New York on September, 30, 2015 according to Race to the Top Grantee frequently asked questions summary from January 21, 2011 on page 3.

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So essentially, we now have “***education without representation***” and “***taxation without representation,***” because the citizens whose taxpaying dollars are supposed to pay for Common Core ***were not informed or represented in the decision making process.*** Again, all funding will cease after two years. ***Who will be left with this enormous bill?***

And the cost is astronomical - ***\$1.1 billion for New York State.*** That is in addition to the budget, money that is **not yet** accounted for. Please exercise your power as Board Members to review this information while you still can and allow parental input and study

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**regarding the academic education of all New York
Children and their future.**

Thank you.