

**ALABAMA STATE SENATE  
ALABAMA STATE HOUSE  
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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4600**

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October 17, 2011

Governor Robert Bentley  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Room N-104  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Bentley:

This is a follow-up letter to the one previously mailed out on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Multiple legislators have asked to have their names added to the list of those requesting the repeal of the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

On behalf of our shared constituencies, Senators Allen, Beason, Brewbaker, Bussman, Glover, Holtzclaw, Marsh, Orr, Reed, Scofield, Ward, Waggoner, Whatley and Representatives Carns, Henry, Johnson, Long, McClurkin, Moore, Rich, and Tuggle, we are writing to encourage you to retain complete control over Alabama academic standards, curriculum, instruction and testing.

We are aware that the Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards Initiative on November 18, 2010, and that this initiative is owned and coordinated by the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers, and defines the knowledge and skill students should have – currently in Math and English Language Arts with Science drafts circulating and Social Studies next.

In spite of the statement from the resolution under which this was adopted that “the Alabama State Board of Education will continue to be the sole and exclusive entity vested with the authority, without restriction, to adopt or revoke all academic standards ... without direct or indirect pressure from the United States government ...,” it is now clear that:

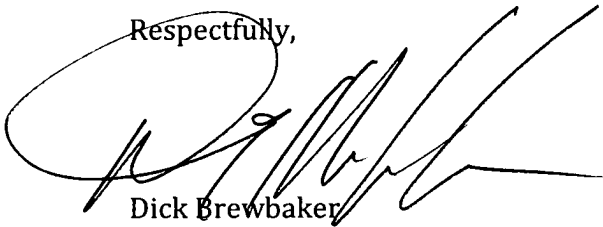
- The United States Department of Education is funding the development of national curriculum guidelines, models and materials as well as national assessments based upon the initiative's standards, thus creating a national curriculum and testing system, and
- The United States Department of Education is conditioning waivers from legal requirements under No Child Left Behind to adoption of Common Core Standards and other elements of its education agenda.

Therefore, The Alabama State Board's resolution is being violated. In addition, national standards, curricula and assessments are without Constitutional or statutory basis. Transferring power to Washington, DC will only further subordinate educational decisions to federal political imperatives. It is about control, not academic excellence.

Alabamians want superior standards of our own choosing. Recent Alabama State Board of Education approved Standards (Courses of Study) already receive high ratings in Math (B+) and English (A, A-).

We respectfully ask the State Board of Education to revoke the adoption of the initiative including its standards (CCSSI) and to refuse any monies tied to this national curriculum.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dick Brewbaker', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Dick Brewbaker

cc: Ella Bell  
Stephanie Bell  
Larry Craven  
Charles Elliott  
Mary Scott Hunter  
Randy McKinney  
David Perry  
Betty Peters  
Yvette Richardson  
Gary Warren

DB/mo