

### It's Time to End Common Core in Alabama

At its Work Session August 10, the State School Board heard a presentation by Supt. Sentance that was prompted by a resolution he offered to the Board to rescind Common Core. That presentation



Gordon Persons Education HQ Bldg.

made the case that Common Core, known in Alabama as College and Career Ready standards, should be replaced by better standards developed and owned by Alabama educators.

Although the resolution provides for a vote at the November 9, 2017 meeting, it is important that citizens begin meeting with and contacting board members now to promote repeal and replacement of the Common Core standards.

Eagle Forum has opposed Common Core standards since before the acceptance of these inferior standards in 2010.

Theresa Hubbard is the Eagle Forum 1st District Chairman. She is also Alabama PIE President and with United States Parents In-

volved in Education (USPIE) Leadership Team. Theresa recently wrote this article for USPIE.

#### What Damage Has Common Core Done in Alabama?:

In Alabama, Common Core has caused devastating results that cannot be denied. In the early 2000's, the state revamped its math and reading programs. Committees were appointed that included state educators, teachers, and parents. By the mid 2000's new math standards and the "Alabama Reading Initiative" had been implemented. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results for 2011, showed marked improvement in both 4th and 8th graders' math and reading scores.

A 2011 Alabama State Department of Education document touted: *"In 2011 Alabama moved from near last to 25th in the nation in overall grades and scores [Education Week assessment] ... 12th in the nation for standards, assessments and accountability... data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) showed a historic gain of eight points in fourth grade Reading for Alabama public school students – the ... highest gain ever in NAEP recorded history. Since then, Alabama has maintained its progress in NAEP assessments."*

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### Schools Turning to Emotional Manipulation

By Elaine Little, Editor

A program being promoted by the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) is spreading throughout the nation in our public schools, including here in Alabama. This program uses invasive social emotional learning surveys to determine what and how students think and to facilitate what the "experts" call **"proper" attitudes and beliefs.**"

Jane Robbins with the American Principles Project and Karen Efrém, M. D. and president of Education Liberty Watch, wrote an article entitled **"Schools Ditch Academics for Emotional Manipulation"**. In this article they point out that under such a program, "teachers essentially become therapists, and students become essentially patients."

They add that this program also is being pushed by the US Department of Education and the progressive education establishment to transform education from academic content instruction to molding and assessing children's attitudes, mindsets, and behaviors.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced No Child

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NAEP is a set of tests given every two years to a representative sample of students in all 50 states. This is the national scorecard that compares the educational performance throughout the nation.

All indicators for Alabama in 2011 pointed to an upward trend in math and reading with confidence of continued success into the future. Then with loud protests against it, Common Core math was implemented in 2012 and English in 2013. Renowned educator Dr. Sandra Stotsky came to Alabama and advised the state “to continue with its standards upon which success was building instead of adopting the unproven and flawed common core regimen.” Her recommendations fell on deaf ears.

By 2015, NAEP assessments results showed Alabama 4th and 8th graders Math scores the lowest of any state. Only 26 percent of 4th graders and 17 percent of 8th graders were proficient in math. These scores were consistent in every demographic across the state. All peer groups scored lower than any other state in the nation.

The 2015 ACT report shows 16% of Alabama students meet the benchmark in all 4 subjects, down 5 points since 2014. The results show 20% proficiency in Math after three years of Common Core and 62% proficiency in English after 2 years. This cannot be explained away.

## **Common Core gets an “F” in Alabama.**

Left Behind, requires schools to be rated based partly on “non-academic” factors, which may include SEL.

Other provisions of the law provide grants for training school personnel on “when and how to refer students with or at risk of mental illness. Such grants are the carrots used to get state acceptance of the program, since federal money for any program is attractive to progressive educators. They are also urged to implement programs of school-wide intervention and support, allowing schools to sidestep parental consent requirements for formal evaluations.

Here in Alabama, this year’s summer MEGA conference for teachers from around the state was held in Orange Beach. It included a number of sessions to teach teachers how to implement social emotional learning in their classrooms. Two such sessions were entitled:

- ◆ 309 Equipping Teachers with Toolbox for Social-emotional development.
- ◆ 308 Emotional & Behavioral Competence

As both Effrem and Robbins point out, “the problems with SEL are both philosophical and operational. Parents rightly object that the school (meaning the government) has no business analyzing and trying to change a child’s psychological makeup.”

Discipline is necessary, but to “assess students on their compliance with highly subjective behavioral standards that may measure personality and individual or family beliefs more than objective shortcomings” is highly inappropriate. Again, Effrem

and Robbins point out that “psychiatrists, psychologists, and counselors undergo years of training to delve into this murky area. But, even experts admit there are no firm criteria for mental health diagnoses, especially in children.”

Having the government set the standards and define “normal” thoughts, beliefs and attitudes, is incompatible with the inherent freedom of conscience and parental autonomy repeatedly affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Diagnoses may be made on the basis of political attitudes and beliefs as has happened around Second Amendment issues in several cases.

Moreover, the collection of data on such subjective standards will follow a student throughout school and into adult careers through the Alabama longitudinal database. This database is under the operational control of the Alabama Department of Labor, but the federal grant money to build it came to the state through the Department of Education. Data is fed into the system, not only by the education department, but many other state agencies. This is why Eagle Forum of Alabama worked for passage of a Student Data Privacy Bill for the past two years. Although the bill has not passed, we will continue to work to protect the private data for students and their families.

To sum up this issue, Effrem and Robbins stated: “...labels assigned to children by people who don’t know what they are doing, to be preserved in government data systems forever. What Could Possibly Go Wrong?”

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# Eagle Forum Issues Press Release on Death of Young Boy in Day Care Center

Issued by Deborah Love, Eagle Forum Executive Director on August 31, 2017

Eagle Forum joins all Alabamians in offering our prayers and deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the adorable five-year-old boy who authorities report died while in the care of an employee at Community Nursery and Preschool Academy in West Mobile.

The fact that the family has already filed a lawsuit indicates that current laws were not properly followed to ensure the child's safety. As stated in the Alabama Statute Title 38, "THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL, PRIOR TO THE DISBURSEMENT OF ANY SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE FUNDS, REQUIRE ALL EMPLOYEES AND APPLICANTS OF LEGALLY OPERATING CHILD CARE FACILITIES TO SUBMIT VERIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION FOR A CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK AND THE RESULTS THEREOF WHEN OBTAINED." (ALA.CODE 1975 § 38-13-3)

Minimal research reveals that the Community Nursery and Preschool Academy in West Mobile received federal subsidies; thus, AL DHR had an affirmative duty to ensure background checks were conducted and received by DHR before they released funds. In addition to the state law, the Federal law requires these safety regulations to be followed. In 2013, the Inspector General clarified current Federal regulations to address states failing to oversee subsidized funds in licensed exempt facilities. "As written, the proposed regulations do not allow providers to self-certify compliance with health and safety re-

quirements, and require States to take specific steps to monitor all CCDF providers." <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-07-10-00231.pdf>. Additionally, in 2014, President Obama signed important legislation insuring accountability with federal funds, and all child care facilities receiving federal funds, including licensed-exempt, face additional inspections and requirements.

[http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2014/11/some\\_church\\_child\\_care\\_centers.html](http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2014/11/some_church_child_care_centers.html).

**"IF the 2017 legislature had passed HB277, it would not have prevented this tragedy."**

Yet some irresponsible news outlets are accusing legislators who opposed a bill in the last legislative session of being responsible for this child's death. Rev. Robin Mears who helped in writing the Child Protection law in 1999 and is Executive Director of Alabama Christian Education Association stated, "IF the 2017 legislature had passed HB277, it would not have prevented this tragedy. WHY pass more laws if the agency entrusted to oversee the compliance with those laws is AWOL?" In addition to the background check requirement, Alabama law already requires staff qualifications to be provided to parents in a signed affidavit. This must be sent to DHR as well. There are other regulations including that multiple

agencies are required to inspect all licensed exempt facilities. [http://dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child\\_Care\\_Services/license%20Exempt%20Centers.aspx](http://dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child_Care_Services/license%20Exempt%20Centers.aspx)

At least twelve state agencies are already required to regulate every child care facility whether licensed or licensed exempt. The four legislators cited by columnists as having been responsible for the defeat of HB277 acted in good faith, borne out of an honest political disagreement over both the effectiveness and appropriateness of certain facets of the bill. There is no evidence to suggest that licenses ensure child safety. Parents should not falsely rely on this as supporters of HB277 suggest. Examples of abuse have occurred in every child care environment in Alabama. Incidents of child abuse and neglect have even occurred at licensed facilities after complaints were filed with proper authorities. [http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2016/01/authorities\\_shut\\_down\\_homewood.html](http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2016/01/authorities_shut_down_homewood.html) [http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2010/12/for-mer\\_hoover\\_day\\_care\\_work\\_wo.html](http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2010/12/for-mer_hoover_day_care_work_wo.html)

Eagle Forum of Alabama rejects the falsehood that child safety and religious liberty are mutually exclusive. Eagle Forum of Alabama finds that current child safety laws are sufficient if they are enforced by the proper authorities. Eagle Forum of Alabama's analysis on HB277 was signed by twenty organizations, child care providers,

*Child Care Death cont'd on page 6*



On July 28, 2017, a Federal judge overturned parts of an Alabama law that requires minors seeking an abortion to have a parent's permission first. Alabama's law requires girls under 18 to have a parent's permission to have an abortion or to request a judge's permission rather than a parent. The now overturned provision also required the minor to appear in a trial like setting and have lawyers and possibly her parents involved in the decision. It also allowed the court to appoint a lawyer to represent the interests of her unborn baby. U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Russ Walker ruled that these provisions "violate a pregnant minor's long-established constitutional right to seek a judicial bypass ... without the participation of her parent, parents, or legal guardian ...and her right to an anonymous judicial bypass hearing."

This ruling is an infringement on the rights of parents to be involved in the health and care of minor children.

Source: *Lifenews.com* 2017/07/31

Apple Inc. Chief Executive Tim Cook has announced that the tech company is giving a 1 million dollar donation to the Southern Poverty Law Center, based in Montgomery, Alabama. He said the donation is to support their work for "human rights" after the Charlottesville riots, saying that the Antifa and other leftist groups were standing up for human rights against the pro-Nazi group. SPLC is the same group that promoted violence against prolife groups, such as the Family Research Council. They also have listed Eagle Forum as a member of their list of "hate groups."

Source: *LifeNews.com* 8/21/2017

In this age of the politicians and education elite saying that the purpose of education is to be able to get a job, we need to go back to Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

**Educate** *verb transitive* [Latin *educō, educare*; *e* and *duco*, to lead]

To bring up, as a child; to instruct; to inform and enlighten the understanding; to instill into the mind principles of arts, science, morals, religion and behavior. To educate children well is one of the most important duties of parents and guardians.

*To go to the original meaning of other words, you may go to*

*http://*

*webstersdictionary1828.com*

According to a new report by Steven A. Camarota, research director at the Center for Immigration Studies, deporting the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants would cost nearly \$125 billion. But the study found that the current population of illegal immigrants will drain nearly \$750 billion from taxpayers over their lifetimes, six times the deportation costs. Camarota said he doesn't actually support a mass deportation of all illegal immigrants, but that it is important to spark a conversation about costs and benefits. The report's analysis is based upon the fact that illegal immigrants are far more likely to be low-skilled, less-educated workers than the native born population and they do get some benefits such as education and emergency health care.

Source: *The Washington Times*, August 3, 2017

"Individual Muslims may show splendid qualities, but the influence of the religion paralyses the social development of those who follow it. No stronger retrograde force exists in the world."

*Winston Churchill 1899*

"The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights cannot claim to be defenders of minorities."

*Ayn Rand*

"When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers, 'just men who will rule in the fear of God.' The preservation of government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded. If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws." *Noah Webster* ("History of the United States," New Haven: Durrie & Peck, 1832, pp. 336-337.)

"Does God ask us to do what is beneath us? This question will never trouble us again if we consider the Lord of heaven taking a towel and washing feet. -- "

*Elisabeth Elliot*

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## American College of Pediatrics reaches decision: Transgenderism of children is child abuse

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An article written by Michael Borstewitz and published on *BizPacReview.com* on March 25, 2017, states:  
The **American College of Pediatricians** issued a statement this week condemning gender reclassification in children by stating that **transgenderism in children** amounts to **child abuse**.

“The American College of Pediatricians urges educators and legislators to reject all policies that condition children to accept as normal a life of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. Facts – not ideology – determine reality.”

The policy statement, authored by Johns Hopkins Medical School Psychology Professor Paul McHugh, listed eight arguments on why gender reclassification is harmful.

1. Human sexuality is an objective biological binary trait: “XY” and “XX” are genetic markers of health – not genetic markers of a disorder.
2. No one is born with a gender. Everyone is born with a biological sex. Gender (an awareness and sense of oneself as male or female) is a sociological and psychological concept; not an objective biological one.
3. A person’s belief that he or she is something they are not is, at best, a sign of confused thinking. When an otherwise healthy biological boy believes he is a girl, or an otherwise healthy biological girl believes she is a boy, an objective psychological problem exists that lies in the mind not the body, and it should be treated as such.
4. Puberty is not a disease and puberty-blocking hormones can be dangerous. Reversible or not, puberty-blocking hormones induce a state of disease – the absence of puberty – and inhibit growth and fertility in a previously biologically healthy child.
5. According to the DSM-V, as many as 98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.
6. Children who use puberty blockers to impersonate the opposite sex will require cross-sex hormones in late adolescence. Cross-sex hormones (testosterone and estrogen) are associated with dangerous health risks including but not limited to high blood pressure, blood clots, stroke and cancer.
7. Rates of suicide are twenty times greater among adults who use cross-sex hormones and undergo sex re-assignment surgery, even in Sweden which is among the most LGBTQ – affirming countries.
8. Conditioning children into believing a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse.

The left, as one might expect, reacted swiftly with claws fully extended. Think Progress described the American College of Pediatricians as a “hate group masquerading as pediatricians.”

*The Huffington Post* said that, “Once again, Paul McHugh has used the ever more tarnished name of Johns Hopkins to distort science and spread transphobic misinformation.”

*Editors Note: If gender dysphoria is a psychological disconnect between biological reality and a person’s belief, the goal should be to correct the thinking of the person rather than mutilate the body.*

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## Work Helps Both Individuals and Government Budgets

By Elaine Little

Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly called Food Stamps, increased 70 percent from 2008 through 2013 after President Obama allowed people with higher incomes to be on the program. After minor cuts in 2014 made as part of a deal with House Republicans, enrollment began to drop.

More than 1.1 million people have dropped off the food stamp program since President Trump took office. Many immigrants, both legal and illegal, have dropped their food stamps over concerns that they either might be denied citizenship or deported. Trump has proposed cuts to the SNAP budget in his 2018 budget which should continue to decrease the rolls. He has also called for states to increase work requirements for able-bodied adults receiving food stamps.

But, states are not waiting on such cuts. A number of states have al-

ready made changes to work requirements. Maine led the way in increasing such work requirements. Georgia and Alabama have followed suit. In Georgia, thousands dropped off the food stamp roles after such work requirements started in 2016.

Alabama re-instituted work requirements to receive food stamps in 54 counties after the economic downturn of 2011-2013, effective January 1, 2016. Thirteen counties were exempted for a year before work requirements had to be put into place due to the high unemployment in those counties. The exemption ended in those counties January 1, 2017. At that time in the exempt counties, Green, Hale, Perry, Dallas, Wilcox, Monroe, Conecuh, Clarke, Washington, Choctaw, Sumter, and Barbour, there were 5,538 able-bodied adults without young children who

resided in those counties on the program. By May 1, 2017, that number had dropped to 831, an 86% drop as reported by *al.com*.

Those are people who now have some type of work rather than being dependent on government for food.

Statewide, as of January 1, 2017, there were 13,663 able-bodied adults without young children on the program, but by May 1, 2017, that number had dropped to 7483.

Food stamp enrollment in the state has been on a downward trend. The number of able-bodied adults on the program decreased by 35,000 since January 1, 2016.

The improving economy and jobs along with "tough love" make a real difference.

*Source of facts: Breitbart News*

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*Child Care Death cont'd from page 3*

and leaders including The Blackstone & Burke Center For Law and Liberty and the Southeast Law Institute.

HB277 would not have improved child safety or prevented failed compliance by DHR with existing laws. The statements recently made by some misinformed media sources are false and misleading. Eagle Forum of Alabama and the legislators mentioned work every session to promote sound public policy solutions to pressing issues faced by Alabama families. Several falsehoods have been repeated and spread in the media about li-

censed exempt facilities in Alabama. Some such statements appear to have been borne out of prejudice against ministries which hold traditional values and religious beliefs. One major lie is that licensed exempt facilities are exempt from DHR regulation or state laws involving child safety including background checks. That is false. No one is legally allowed to harm children in Alabama regardless of the environment. Again, it is up to state prosecutors and DHR to enforce our laws in the areas of child safety.

Rather than address the issue of

DHR's failure to ensure that federally subsidized facilities follow the law, proponents of HB277 advocate removal of religious liberty protection of all church ministries. Some have disingenuously and deceitfully refused to recognize the facts in favor of unconstitutional church regulation. The individuals who violated current state laws and the authorities who failed to enforce them are the persons responsible for this tragic death. Clearly, the individual who neglected or harmed the child should be held responsible. The question remains, "Why is DHR not ensuring compliance with federal and state law?"

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# Our Liberty Tree

*By Anne Schlafly Cori, Chairman, National Eagle Forum written in honor of Phyllis Schlafly on her birthday  
August 15, 2017*

The Liberty Tree in Boston was a symbol of the American Revolution. The Sons of Liberty, including Samuel Adams and Paul Revere, gathered under Liberty Trees to express their vision for a new country, and the Liberty Tree represented their aspirations.

My mother, Phyllis Schlafly, loved trees, especially big, glorious old trees. Trees symbolized growth and stability and she loved watching them green out in the spring and turn to orange, yellow, and brown in the fall.

One tree, in particular, captured her heart. President Ronald Reagan appointed her to serve on the Commission for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Phyllis Schlafly had protected the integrity of our Constitution by spearheading the effort to defeat an amendment that would have fundamentally changed our country (Equal Rights Amendment). She was passionate about the freedoms expressed in our unique Constitution and the genius of the men who hammered out the foundation of America. Celebrating 200 years of the Constitution in 1987 was a highlight in her illustrious life.



Oak Tree Planted by Phyllis

Part of the celebration was the Commission's order to plant thousands of commemorative Liberty Trees in honor of and lasting tribute to the Constitution. At one of the celebratory events, the Commissioners were given seedlings from the Wye Oak tree in Wye Mills, Maryland. That massive 460-year-old tree was the oldest white oak in the United States and is the state tree of Maryland. The Wye Oak was felled by a storm and died in 2002; it stood 96 feet tall with a circumference of over 31 feet.

Phyllis did her part and planted a Wye Oak seedling in Alton, Illinois. The local deer population did everything they could to take down this young tree. They failed. A committed gardener protected the tree with doses of rhino dung and coyote urine to shoo away the deer, plus many truckloads of mulch. This glorious 30-year-old tree now stands, over 30 feet tall, as a monument to our U.S. Constitution and the liberties and freedoms enshrined.

Our Constitution is a beautiful document extolling the rights of the people and limiting the overreach of the federal government. As these Liberty Trees grow over many generations, they symbolize the deep roots of our Constitution and the glorious protections provided by the wide canopy.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants." Phyllis Schlafly, who would have turned 93 years today, [August 15, 2017] dedicated her life to protecting and promoting Liberty Trees.

**"Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."**

*Thomas Jefferson*





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