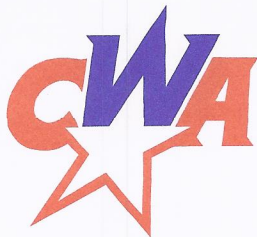


Tanya Ditty
State Director



November 25, 2013

Barbara Hampton, Chair
State Board of Education
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Hampton:

I am writing today on behalf of the members of Concerned Women for America (CWA) of Georgia voicing concern over the procedures that have been put in place for the open comment period during the State Board of Education's fourteen public hearings on the Common Core standards. According to the document titled "State Board Plan to address Governor's request Regarding Common Core Georgia Performance Standards," you are requiring concerned parents and citizens to submit in writing their comments, and then depending on the comments, you will determine whether a person gets one minute or three minutes to speak.

In the spirit of the First Amendment and free speech, I respectfully request that you reconsider this overtly restrictive protocol for the public comment portion of the hearings. I have testified before state legislative committees, a local school board, and the State School Board and have never been required to submit my testimony in writing before testifying or speaking. Speaking before any committee or group of people can be very intimidating, so having such a requirement for the State Board hearings gives the appearance of wanting to discourage concerned parents and citizens from giving important feedback on the Common Core.

In addition, limiting the content of the comments to just standards is very restrictive. It might be difficult for a parent to identify a specific standard or standards. It might not necessarily be the standard that is the problem, but the process by which Common Core requires the teacher to teach the standard. Parents watching their children struggle under the Common Core should have the ability to express this type of concern as well.

We are asking that you provide the most open, transparent and nonrestrictive environment for parents and Georgia citizens to give feedback. Thank you for your time and attention in this most important matter.

Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization.

Sincerely,

Tanya Ditty
State Director

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA
OF GEORGIA

CC:

Governor Nathan Deal

Attorney General Sam Olens

Senator Lindsey Tippins, Chairman

Representative Brooks Coleman, Chairman

Helen Odom Rice