



P.O. BOX 1048, Franklin, PA 16323 Phone: (814) 271-9078
fax: (814) 437-5432 website: www.afaofpa.org e-mail: info@afaofpa.org

David Sumner, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
via email: dsumner@irrc.state.pa.us
RE: regulation 6-326
November 18, 2013

Dear Mr. Sumner:

I write in strong opposition to the PA Core Standards - IRRC No. 2976. The claim this is a state-led initiative is so far off the mark it is ridiculous! A little background: In 2007, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Eli Broad Foundation pledged \$60 million dollars into a campaign to infuse education into the 2008 political race. In May, 2008, the Gates Foundation awarded a \$2.2 million grant to the Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy which, one month later, hosted a symposium alongside the National Governors Association (NGA) on education strategies. NGA and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) began accepting federal grants with which to launch Common Core. In December, 2008, NGA, CCSSO and Achieve – their contractor in Washington, D.C. – laid out a vision for Common Core standards in a document called *Benchmarking for Success* - again funded by the Gates Foundation! The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act earmarked \$4.35 billion for states that make “significant progress” toward four education-reform objectives. One week after the bill was passed, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan rolled out the federal “Race to the Top” program through the Department of Education (DOE). In a C-SPAN interview, Secretary Duncan explained, “We want to get into this game.... There are great outside partners – Achieve, the Gates Foundation, others – who are providing great leadership.... I want to be the one to help it come to fruition.” The Gates Foundation has given grants to the PTA, National Catholic Education to push Common Core. How much have business associations in Pennsylvania received from Gates to push it here in the Commonwealth?

Phase I Race to the Top applications were invited in November, 2009, with a due date of January 19, 2010. “[A]pplicant states were required to demonstrate their commitment to Common Core without having seen even a draft of the standards.” How much Race to the Top money did PA received tying us to Common Core?

Problems within the "standards include: The curriculum replaces the classics with government propaganda. According to the American Principles Project, "They de-emphasize the study of classic literature in favor of reading so-called 'informational texts,' such as government documents, court opinions, and technical manuals." Over half the reading materials in grades 6-12 are to consist of informational texts rather than classical literature. Historical texts like the Gettysburg Address are to be presented to students without context or explanation.