

## **Testimony to Senate Education Committee on SB 286 Repeal & Replace Common Core**

**Melanie Kurdys April 26, 2016**

A few years ago, when Michigan leaders made the decision to implement Common Core, it was because leadership was listening to the “education experts”, not the parents, grandparents and concerned citizens. Even though the experts could not provide evidence that the change would work, would be better for students, they prevailed. But now, several years later, the parents, grandparents and concerned citizens are being joined by more and more teachers in their call to repeal Common Core. As the facts about Common Core become clearer through implementation, the evidence that they are NOT better for students has become clearer as well.

This situation is actually similar to the Flint water crisis. The experts recommended the water source be changed. As far as we can tell, they provided no evidence that the change would be beneficial to the citizens of Flint. After the change was implemented, citizens began reporting problems with their water, yet the experts continued to insist the water was fine. Michigan leadership relied on the experts and refused to hear the pleas of the citizens. Now we are in the midst of a crisis. A very expensive clean up and recovery as well as untold physical damage to our children’s health and their future.

The good news here is the solution proposed in this legislation is not bottled water. It is a wholesale systemic change that puts us on the right track in education. It is realistic and doable.

You have a chance to prevent another crisis. You have the chance to prevent the loss of a generation of Michigan citizens poorly educated due to an unproven education experiment. We are counting on you to see the evidence, to listen to Michigan citizens, to look beyond the hurdles and to hear the truth.

Please vote to Repeal & Replace Common Core today.