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I am opposed to Common Core for several reasons. First, because I don't think that our education system should be run by a federal bureaucracy in Washington, D.C. Education is the responsibility and right of parents, and should be controlled and directed through parents and local school boards. I also don't think national testing standards are appropriate or beneficial to our schools and children. National Education Standards created by bureaucrats far away from Idaho and imposed on local schools across the country will eliminate competition and innovation that challenge our students and schools to excel. These standards will harm the charter school and home school environments that have encouraged the type of independent, creative thinking we desperately need, and will deprive teachers, administrators, school boards and superintendents of the flexibility and control needed to develop curriculums and programs that best serve their students and communities.

I have concerns that the imposition of national educational standards may also violate the 10th Amendment of the United States Constitution. Much of this program is as yet undefined, and may result in the delegation of new powers to the federal government over curriculums, textbooks, instructional materials, library resources, as well as qualifications of teachers, administrators and other personnel. This is also an unfunded mandate which raises additional issues.

I am also seriously concerned that our children's Constitutionally protected privacy rights may be jeopardized by the collection of their personal data and distribution of that information to national databases. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does little to secure student privacy. There are a broad list of circumstances in which educational data, including personally identifiable information, can be given to third parties without parental consent.

Idaho does not currently collect biometric data of students, but the U.S. Department of Education has already suggested it as a means of monitoring how children learn. "*Biometric record*, as used in the definition of *personally identifiable information*, means a record of one or more measurable biological or behavioral characteristics that can be used for automated recognition of an individual. Examples include fingerprints; retina and iris patterns; voiceprints; DNA sequence; facial characteristics; and handwriting." (FERPA)

Since biometric records are included as personally identifiable information, they can be released without consent under new FERPA regulations. The collection of biometric data has already been suggested by the national government and federal privacy laws would allow it. It is an ominous and dangerous prospect that threatens the basic freedom of our children.