

March 12, 2015

Dear Governor Otter and Honorable Members of the Idaho House and Senate:

In a recent news article appearing in the *Idaho Education News*, you, Governor Otter, were quoted as saying “*We’ve overcome most of the resistance to (Common Core),...*” indicating that all public concerns about Common Core had been adequately addressed. Herein, we are submitting a resolution signed by more than thirty (30) different citizen organizations, representing more than 20,000 members across the state, who disagree with that conclusion.

For the past two years, the citizens of Idaho have been trying to get the legislature to listen to our concerns about Common Core and the SBAC test in particular. Over time our concerns have continued to grow and despite ongoing letters, phone calls, emails and personal visits to legislative offices, we’ve had very little success in getting the attention this issue deserves.

There were two separate bills presented to two different committees this legislative session that would have adequately addressed our concerns about the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the SBAC test. The fact that neither of these two bills, HB65 and S1085, has been allowed a committee hearing is a clear indication that those in leadership positions are hindering the progress of these bills and thereby refusing to hear the voices of the people who elect them and pay their salaries. This is to advise you that the signers of the enclosed resolution are very serious about our participation in the process of self government and want S1085 to be brought to a fair and open public hearing during this legislative session.

Despite the fact that we are not at all happy with the effective non-response that has been demonstrated by legislative leadership on this issue, we have conducted ourselves with respect for the office and for the process and feel compelled to remind you that such respect is a two-way street. So we respectfully ask that you honor our request by granting us the hearing we desire. In doing so, you will show that you still believe that the People are valued participants in a government OF the People, BY the People and FOR the People.

Respectfully,

Russell Smerz, Coalition Coordinator

Idaho’s Conservative Coalition