

The Honorable Lenny Curry
Chairman, Republican Party of Florida
PO Box 311
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

February 24, 2014

Dear Chairman Curry:

Per directives in the January 21, 2014 letter to members of the Republican Party of Florida (RPOF) Legislative Affairs Committee, the committee received input from the Florida Republican State Executive Committee and met with a quorum present on February 22, 2014 to review the issue of Common Core.

Republican Party of Florida Staffer George Riley was present during the meeting.

In addition to the appointed members of the Legislative Affairs Committee, invitations were extended to Florida Senate leadership, Florida House leadership, the Florida Department of Education, the Foundation for Florida's Future, Education Liberty Watch and the Florida Stop Common Core Coalition.

The committee listened to the presentations, carefully deliberated and ultimately identified key concerns it could not reconcile:

1. Significant discrepancy between the presentations themselves and future contractual obligations of the State of Florida as a result of previously signed documents.
2. Lack of a demonstrated necessity to revise or abandon Florida's academic standards and achievements, which are currently recognized as some of the best in the nation, for unproven and untested new methods.
3. The potential negative political impact on Republican candidates in the 2014 elections if the final phases of Common Core are implemented in Florida by a Republican House, a Republican Senate and a Republican Governor.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the committee to delay further implementation of the Common Core State Standards or Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in Florida.

It is also the request of the committee that these findings and resolution be distributed to the Governor, members of the Florida Legislature and the Florida Republican State Executive Committee.

Please accept this letter as report of the proceeding, findings and outcome of the RPOF Legislative Affairs Committee meeting on February 22, 2014 to review the issue of Common Core.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the party and the citizens of the great state of Florida.

Sincerely,

Kathleen King
Chairman, RPOF Legislative Affairs Committee

cc: RPOF Legislative Affairs Committee members
ENCLOSURE: Republican Party of Florida Legislative Affairs Committee Resolution on Common Core

Republican Party of Florida Legislative Affairs Committee Resolution on "Common Core"

Whereas, Republican Governor Rick Scott, at the January 2014 Annual meeting of the Republican Party of Florida made four specific and distinct promises to the top elected Republican leadership and the people of Florida:

1. The State of Florida would adopt a data protection bill this session
2. The State of Florida will adopt Florida education standards and not "common core" or national standards
3. All Florida curriculums will be developed at the local level
4. The Federal Government will not be involved in the Florida educational standards

Whereas, resolutions in opposition to "common core" overwhelmingly passed the Caucus of the State Committeemen, Committeewomen and the Caucus of County Chairmen;

Whereas, the concept of "common core" is contrary to Republican values and Constitutional authority;

Whereas, "common core," now known as *Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards*, prohibits Republican unification and will likely have a negative impact on the outcome of Florida elections;

Be it known, the Republican Party of Florida Legislative Affairs Committee recommend and urge Legislative leadership to cease implementation of "common core" standards, also known as Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, and withdraw all obligations defined by previous agreements regarding "common core" initiatives by and with the Federal Government;

Be it further known, that in the absence of legislative action, the Republican Party of Florida Legislative Affairs Committee recommend and urge Governor Rick Scott to exercise his Constitutional authority and notify the proper State and Federal agencies of the State of Florida's desire to immediately end its obligation to any standards or agreements with the Federal Government and to immediately cease implementation of "common core" standards (by any name) in the State of Florida;

Be it further known that the Republican Party of Florida Legislative Affairs Committee genuinely believes this position is in the best interest of the children of the State of Florida.

The above Resolution passed unanimously with a quorum present on Saturday, February 22, 2014.

Deborah Cox-Roush
Governors
Appointee
ABSENT

Gary Lee
RPOF State Committeeman
Lee County

PRESENT

Eric Miller
RPOF State Committeeman
Martin County

PRESENT

Clyde Simpson
REC Chairman
Jefferson County

ABSENT

Kathleen King
REC Chairman
Manatee County

PRESENT

Alan Winslow
RPOF State Committeeman
Lake County

PRESENT
