

From: Pitts, Ted
To: Baker, Josh <JoshBaker@gov.sc.gov>
Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 6/29/2012 2:25:23 PM
Subject: FW: Letter to Ted on veto

-----Original Message-----

From: Julie Price [mailto:JuliePrice@scsenate.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 9:38 AM
To: Pitts, Ted
Cc: Sharon Fennell
Subject: FW: Letter to Ted

-----Original Message-----

From: Sharon Fennell
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2012 10:08 PM
To: Julie Price
Subject: FW: Letter to Ted

Julie, i am in tennessee so i am not able to forward this to ted pitts in the governor office, will you please forward this to him. Senator Fair is out town as well. Thank you. 803-622-4963 if he has any questions.

From: Mike Fair [mikefairforsenate@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2012 6:13 PM
To: Sharon Fennell
Subject: Letter to Ted

Sharon,
Forward this to Ted Pitts...tks

Dear Ted,

Hope you are well. I know you are busy and we are all looking forward to writing vetoes and sustains or not. Just get it over with..right.

The Governor might want to 'veto' a memorandum of understanding with the Common Core's assessment product called Smarter Balanced. Smarter Balanced is under contract with the US Department of Education to give testing information on SC students test results to the Federal Government...SBAC- US Dept of ED. I can't the Governor or you would sign such an agreement. This is just the latest blemish on the Common Core Initiative.

Smarter Balanced uses computers and a testing methodology called 'computer adaptive.' You will recall my telling you that the primary testimony from teachers was their desire to have our students

compared with students from other states and that the Common Core Initiative and its test would assure that comparison.

Computer Adaptive changes that argument. I don't know what the proponents will truthfully argue as the excuse to give control of the classroom over to the Federal Government.

Check this site taken from the Smarter Balanced Manual for a definition of computer adaptive.

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/computer-adaptive-testing/>

The testing gets easier or more difficult based on the student's responses. That's right. It is not only impossible to compare our students with another state, it will be impossible to compare a student seated in one row with a student in the row beside him. What a joke, that is it would be a joke if it did not smack of what we would expect from President Obama.

Our State Board of Education also told us that Math and English/Language Arts were the only state standards that would be affected. We (EOC) specifically asked about Social Studies and Science and were told emphatically no. We were told Science and Social Studies Standards were too controversial and would not be added.

Next Generation is the Science Standard that is already being pushed on SC and the CC Initiative states. That is why a proviso to prohibit the purchase of Next Generation was placed on the budget. Next Generation was compiled by Achieve the same company responsible for the Core's Math and ELA. The State Board has been less than forthcoming on this matter.

Please make the Governor aware of this mess. Yes, I'd be delighted to talk to her if that would help. Our Standards are fine and in some years have been superior. We can even use the Common Core standards as part of our Standards because they are part of the public domain. But we don't want the stupid test

Sent from my iPad