

1 SJR49
2 138959-1
3 By Senators Brewbaker, Scofield, McGill, Allen, Taylor, Ward,
4 Williams, Fielding, and Holtzclaw
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 15-MAR-12

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8 ENCOURAGING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO RETAIN
9 CONTROL OVER ALABAMA ACADEMIC STANDARDS, CURRICULUM,
10 INSTRUCTION, AND TESTING.
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12 WHEREAS, the State Board of Education adopted the
13 Common Core State Standards Initiative on November 18, 2010;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the initiative is owned and coordinated by
16 the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices
17 and the Council of Chief State School Officers, and defines
18 the knowledge and skills students should have within their
19 K-12 education careers; and

20 WHEREAS, the initiative holds itself out as a
21 state-led effort to give all students the skills and knowledge
22 they need to succeed; and

23 WHEREAS, the initiative states that the federal
24 government was not involved in the development of the
25 standards, that individual states choose whether or not to
26 adopt all or any one of the standards, and that Alabama can
27 withdraw from the initiative at any time; and

1 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution wisely
2 leaves the setting of academic standards, curriculum, and
3 instruction to the states; and

4 WHEREAS, by act of the Legislature, the board is
5 charged with the general control and supervision of public
6 education in Alabama and, as part of that charge, sets
7 Alabama's courses of study which contain Alabama's education
8 standards by subject matter; and

9 WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned that the United
10 States Department of Education is funding the development of
11 national curriculum guidelines, modes, and materials as well
12 as national assessments based upon the initiative's standards,
13 thus creating a national curriculum and testing system; and

14 WHEREAS, the Legislature is very concerned with the
15 federal government's intrusion in Alabama's right to set
16 curriculum and standards and the powers duly delegated to the
17 board to do so; and

18 WHEREAS, this body finds that the conditional No
19 Child Left Behind (NCLB) waiver plan will result in the United
20 States Department of Education leveraging the states into a de
21 facto long term national system of curriculum, programs of
22 instruction, and instructional materials, notwithstanding the
23 absence of legal authority in the Elementary and Secondary
24 Education Act (ESEA) and that this system will bind states
25 indefinitely to the common core standards, Partnership for the
26 Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers and SMARTER
27 Balanced Assessment Consortium (PARCC-SBAC) assessments, and

1 the curriculum and instructional modules that arise from those
2 assessments; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That by copy of this resolution
5 provided to the State Superintendant of Education for
6 distribution to the board, we hereby encourage the State Board
7 of Education to take all steps it deems appropriate, including
8 revocation of the adoption of the initiative's standards if
9 necessary, to retain complete control over Alabama's academic
10 standards, curriculum, instruction, and testing system.