



Business and Industry Association
New Hampshire's Statewide Chamber of Commerce

122 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301
Tel: 603.224.5388 • Fax: 603.224.2872 • Web: www.BIAofNH.com

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan:

I am writing to you to respectfully request that you veto SB 101, prohibiting the state from requiring implementation of common core standards.

SB 101 specifically prohibits New Hampshire's Department of Education from implementing Common Core in any school district. This bill disregards the fact that most school districts across the state began switching to Common Core years ago, and that the higher education standards and the curriculum that followed are working as designed to provide New Hampshire employers with the educated and work-ready workforce needed for 21st century jobs.

SB 101 undermines New Hampshire's commitment to higher educational standards and sends a message that mediocre is okay. It also exhibits a lack of faith in the abilities of education professionals at the New Hampshire Department of Education, leaders of the state Board of Education, and board members from local school districts to make sound decisions regarding education standards designed to raise student performance.

Higher education standards are critical for New Hampshire's future economic success. Businesses will more and more be relying on a workforce that can demonstrate competencies in communication skills and math skills, as well as other STEM associated subjects. That's why the BIA has been a leader supporting Common Core and New Hampshire's College and Career Ready Standards at the state level, and why Common Core is supported nationally by the US Chamber of Commerce. We hope that you will demonstrate your support for higher education standards by vetoing SB 101.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Roche", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Roche
President