



Report Says Obama Knew Benghazi Was a Terrorist Attack, Lied About Video



STR/AFP/Getty Images

By Joe Newby, January 14, 2014

On Monday, Fox News' James Rosen reported that newly declassified documents revealed that President Obama was briefed on the Benghazi terrorist attack minutes after the assault began. The new evidence, Rosen said, raises questions about why the Obama administration was allowed to present a false narrative about a video for two weeks.

Gen. Carter Ham, then head of AFRICOM, the Defense Department combatant command with jurisdiction over Libya, told a House panel last year in classified testimony, that he broke the news of the attack to then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

According to testimony, he learned of the attack just 15 minutes after it began.

"My first call was to General Dempsey, General Dempsey's office, to say, 'Hey, I am headed down the hall. I need to see him right away,'" he told lawmakers last June. "I told him what I knew. We immediately walked upstairs to meet with Secretary Panetta."

Some 450 pages of testimony were given that day, Rosen said. Dempsey and Panetta, Ham said, "had the basic information as they headed across for the meeting at the White House."

Rosen added:

Armed Services Chairman Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., sitting in on the subcommittee's hearing with Ham last June, reserved for himself an especially sensitive line of questioning: namely, whether senior Obama administration officials, in the very earliest stages of their knowledge of Benghazi, had any reason to believe that the assault grew spontaneously out of a demonstration over an anti-Islam video produced in America.

"In your discussions with General Dempsey and Secretary Panetta," the California congressman asked, "was there any mention of a demonstration or was all discussion about an attack?"

Ham said there was some "peripheral" discussion about the subject but "at that initial meeting, we knew that a U.S. facility had been attacked and was under attack, and we knew at that point that we had two individuals, Ambassador Stevens and Mr. [Sean] Smith, unaccounted for."

Rosen posted a portion of the conversation between Ham and Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-Ohio, a first-term congressman who pressed the issue further:

WENSTRUP: "As a military person, I am concerned that someone in the military would be advising that this was a demonstration. I would hope that our military leadership would be advising that this was a terrorist attack."

HAM: "Again, sir, I think, you know, there was some preliminary discussion about, you know, maybe there was a demonstration. But I think at the command, I personally and I think the command very quickly got to the point that this was not a demonstration, this was a terrorist attack."

WENSTRUP: "And you would have advised as such if asked. Would that be correct?"

HAM: "Well, and with General Dempsey and Secretary Panetta, that is the nature of the conversation we had, yes, sir."

Panetta told the Senate last February it was him who informed Obama about the attack.

"There was no question in my mind that this was a terrorist attack," Panetta told Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla.

Others also testified they referred to Benghazi as a terror attack, yet the administration blamed it on a video for two weeks.

"Leon Panetta should have spoken up," said Kim R. Holmes, a former assistant secretary of state under President George W. Bush. "The people at the Pentagon and frankly, the people at the CIA stood back while all of this was unfolding and allowed this narrative to go on longer than they should have."

Two Men and a Truck Explains How ObamaCare Will Hurt Its Growth



By Herman Cain, January 15, 2014

"It's going to limit our ability to expand the business."

You've probably heard of Two Men and a Truck. Despite what its light-hearted name suggests, Two Men and a Truck is a huge and growing company that provides moving services throughout the country. Each local organization is run as a franchise operation, which are really small businesses even though they operate under a very famous name.

Brooke Wilson is the co-owner, along with her husband, of a Two Men and a Truck franchise in North Carolina. The Wilsons already provide health insurance for their employees, paying half the cost of the premiums. And the business is posed to grow, but thanks to ObamaCare, the growth they thought they'd be experiencing may not come. Wilson explains to the Washington Free Beacon:

"We anticipate our costs to be increased about \$250,000-\$275,000 a year" with ObamaCare, Brooke Wilson, co-owner of the moving company, revealed. The company will be insuring more employees at a higher premium. They will not receive any discounts for their young, healthy male employees because gender and health status do not factor into health pricing.

Asked by WRAL-NC how the company will make up for the astronomical cost of the healthcare they will be forced to offer, Wilson said: "Unfortunately, I think it's going to limit our ability to expand the business, we may not be able to add as many trucks to our fleet, we may not be able to open another location."

Citing the importance of the employee culture the company strives to maintain, Wilson vowed that the company will not cut hours, wages, or employees.

It's very admirable that they are not cutting hours, wages or employees. But the problem here is that ObamaCare forces the Wilsons to choose between protecting those things and growing. They can't do both. A cost increase of more than \$250,000 a year for a small business is huge. And while the Wilsons and their Two Men and a Truck franchise will choose to suck up the costs, many other businesses will not - concluding that the only viable option is to cancel employee policies and throw them onto the ObamaCare exchange.

This is what ObamaCare is doing to business and job growth in this country. It's killing it. It's forcing small business owners to choose between taking care of their employees and growing. Even a successful company like this one can't do both. Repeat ObamaCare!

Maricopa County GOP Votes Overwhelmingly to Censure John McCain



Photo Source Huffington Post

By Tom Tillson, January 12, 2014, bizpacreview.com

U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is frequently characterized by his critics as a "RINO" — Republican in name only — but such criticism hit especially close to home on Saturday.

The Maricopa County Republican Party, McCain's home county, voted overwhelmingly to censure the 2008 Republican nominee for president for his "betrayal" of party values, according to the local CBS affiliate.

McCain was admonished for pushing liberal legislation, backing liberal nominees and for "assaults on the U.S. Constitution and 2nd Amendment," the resolution said.

The vote wasn't even close, with 1,169 voting for censure, compared to just 358 voting against it.

The censure concluded that "until he consistently champions our party's platform and values, we, the Republican leadership in Arizona will no longer support, campaign for or endorse John McCain as our U.S. Senator."

Ouch.

Here is the resolution as drafted by precinct committeeman Tim Schwartz, according to CBS5 Phoenix:

As leaders in the Republican Party, we are obligated to fully support our party, platform and its candidates. Only in times of great crisis or betrayal is it necessary to publicly censure our leaders.

Today we are faced with both. For too long we have waited, hoping Sen. McCain would return to our party's values on his own. That has not happened. So with sadness and humility we rise and declare:

Whereas Sen. McCain has amassed a long and terrible record of drafting, co-sponsoring and voting for legislation best associated with liberal Democrats, such as amnesty, funding for ObamaCare, the debt ceiling, assaults on the U.S. Constitution and Second Amendment, and has continued to support liberal nominees;

Whereas this record has been disastrous and harmful to Arizona and the United States; and,

Whereas Sen. McCain has campaigned as a conservative and made promises during his re-election campaigns, such as the needed and welcomed promise to secure our borders and finish the border fence, only to quickly flip-flop on those promises; and whereas McCain has abandoned our core values and has been eerily silent against liberals, yet publicly reprimands conservatives in his own party, therefore

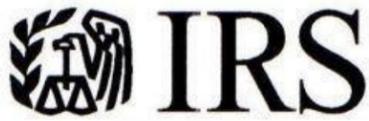
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Maricopa County Republican leadership censures Sen. McCain for his continued disservice to our state and nation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until he consistently champions our party's platform and values, we, the Republican leadership in Arizona will no longer support, campaign for or endorse John McCain as our U.S. senator.

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IRS Proposes New Rules To Regulate Non-Profit Political Activity



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

By L. D. Jackson,
ldjackson.net

We all know the government agency we love to hate. The IRS is the most feared and hated government

agency Washington, D.C has managed to come up with. That fear and hatred was never more evidenced than when it was discovered that the IRS had been intentionally targeting conservative organizations when they asked to be granted 501(c)(4) status. Congressional hearings were held to find out exactly what was going on and the woman in charge of the uncalled for scrutiny managed to wiggle her way out of the hot seat. Lois Lerner pleaded the 5th Amendment, after stating she had done nothing wrong.

There is speculation, and evidence to back it up, that the IRS performed its scrutinizing of conservative groups at the behest of the Obama administration. In spite of his fabricated outrage, President Obama did meet with the head of the IRS several times before the IRS started its campaign to target conservative groups asking for 501(c)(4) status. That scandal has been largely sidelined by other scandals, but that does not mean the IRS is changing its tactics. They are, if anything doubling down in their attack on non-profit political groups and have proposed new rules to regulate non-profit political activity.

The Wall Street Journal - Six months after the Internal Revenue Service's inspector general revealed that the tax-collection agency had been targeting conservative organizations for added scrutiny and delaying their applications for tax-exempt status, the IRS has proposed new rules for handling political activity by nonprofits. The proposed rules would plunge the agency deeper into political regulation.

The rules would upset more than 50 years of settled law and practice by limiting the ability of certain tax-exempt nonprofits, organized under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, to conduct nonpartisan voter registration and voter education. Such organizations would be forbidden to leave records of officeholder votes and public statements on their websites in the two months before an election.

It is tempting to pick the proposed rules apart—and there is much to pick, such as restrictions on a nonprofit discussing any aspect of a president's judicial nominees in a public communication any time between Feb. 2 and a national election day nine months later. But it is more important to ask how we got here. Why is the IRS regulating political activity at all?

The article from The Wall Street Journal raises an important question. Indeed, why is the IRS entangling itself in the field of regulating political activity? The answer is simple. Liberal activists are frustrated with recent court rulings allowing 501(c)(4) organizations to work in the political arena. In order to achieve their goals, they are falling back on their trusted Plan B. When they can't work the courts to their favor and Congress refuses to play ball by passing new legislation according to liberal designs, they ask a government agency to issue new regulations that will accomplish the same goals.

We have seen this Plan B in action with the EPA. When in doubt, issue new regulations and rules that bypass Congress and the American people. It has been especially active with ObamaCare. They passed a law that left it up to the Obama administration and the Department of Health and Human Services to issue the rules and regulations that would make up the bulk of ObamaCare. That's how Obama has been able to change the law at his whim and fancy.

The IRS is in the process of trying to do the same thing. The Obama administration has an intense dislike for the ruling handed down on the Citizens United Case. The President even went so far as to chastise the Supreme Court Justices in one of his State of the Union speeches. Because they have been disappointed and frustrated by the courts, they are trying to take matters into their own hands.

The author of the article only mentions two of the proposed rules. He is focused on asking why the IRS is even in the business of regulating political activity, and rightfully so. Those two rules, however, should tell us all we need to know. The first would require 501(c)(4) organizations to remove any records of officeholder votes and public statements from their websites two months before an

election. The second would prevent 501(c)(4) organizations from publicly talking about a president's judicial nominee from February 2 to a national election held some nine months later.

The obvious question arises. Why are these two rules being proposed? The only possible answer is that the IRS is trying to limit the information the voters have available to them as they make their decision about whom to vote for. That, my fellow Americans, is not a good thing. We need to shine a very bright light on the IRS and what it is trying to do.

Why Net Neutrality's Demise Hurts the Poor Most



By Barbara Stripling, January 16, 2014, wired.com

Here's something you probably didn't know: The recent ruling striking down network neutrality doesn't just affect websites and internet service providers — it affects libraries, too.

By striking down the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s Open Internet Order this week, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals just gave commercial companies the authority to block internet traffic, give preferential treatment to specific internet services, and steer internet users away from online content based on their own commercial interests. Since the internet is now the primary mechanism for delivering content and applications to the general public, it's more important than ever that commercial ISPs *not* have that kind of power to control or otherwise manipulate such communications.

As a school librarian — and the head of the American Library Association — I expect that the court's ruling will negatively affect the daily lives of Americans in a number of ways, particularly children in K-12 schools. School, public, and college libraries rely upon the public availability of open, affordable internet access for school homework assignments, distance learning classes, e-government services, licensed databases, job-training videos, medical and scientific research, and many other essential services. We must ensure the same quality access to online educational content as to entertainment and other commercial offerings. But without net neutrality, we are in danger of prioritizing Mickey Mouse and Jennifer Lawrence over William Shakespeare and Teddy Roosevelt. This may maximize profits for large content providers, but it minimizes education for all.

And with education comes innovation. While we tend to glorify industrial-park incubators and think-tanks, the fact is that many of the innovative services we use today were created by entrepreneurs who had a fair chance to compete for web traffic. By enabling internet service providers to limit that access, we are essentially saying that *only the privileged can continue to innovate*. Meanwhile, small content creators, such as bloggers and grassroots educators, would face challenges from ISPs placing restrictions on information traveling over their networks.

Protecting net neutrality and considering its effect on libraries isn't just a feel-good sentiment about education and innovation, however. Network neutrality is actually an issue of *economic access*, because those who can't afford to pay more for internet services will be relegated to the "slow lane" of the information highway.

Public libraries — which serve roughly 30 million patrons each week — could face higher service charges for newly premium online information and services. In a time of already-constrained budgets, paying more for more internet access would require tradeoffs such as fewer books, staff, and open hours.

High-quality internet access shouldn't be restricted to those who can "pay to play." Unfortunately, by allowing ISPs to preferentially charge and premium price access, that's what will happen, and public libraries — and the communities we serve — will be the ones to lose.

Finally, libraries aren't just passive containers, but prolific *generators* of internet content — including digitized materials for the purposes of preservation and historical

reference. The San Francisco Public Library, in just one example, digitized a collection of over 250,000 historical photographs and provides access to over 10,000 popular songs through its website. Such audio and video resources used to be the exclusive domain of large companies, but the internet — with its core openness including net neutrality — expanded our capacity to obtain information, create new content, and share ideas and applications across the world.

An open internet is essential to our nation's educational achievement, freedom of speech, and economic growth. Tuesday's ruling flies in the face of intellectual freedom, a key library community principle that supports the right of all people to seek information without restriction. We believe the internet functions best when it is open to everyone, without interference by internet providers. The American Library Association will continue to work to ensure all information resources have equitable internet access — not just those supported by groups with deep pockets.

A Bit of Humor, Joe's Plumbing 2017

Author Unknown

Only weeks after leaving office, Barack Obama discovers a leak under his sink, so he calls Joe the Plumber to come out and fix it. Joe drives to Obama's new house, which is located in a very exclusive gated community where all the residents make more than \$250,000 per year. Joe arrives and takes his tools into the house. Joe is led to the guest bathroom that contains the leaky pipe under the sink. Joe assesses the problem and tells Obama that it's an easy repair that will take less than 10 minutes. Obama asks Joe how much it will cost. Joe checks his rate chart and says, "\$9,500." "What?! \$9,500?" Obama asks, stunned, "But you said it's an easy repair!"

Joe says, "Yes, but what I do is charge those who make \$250,000 per year a much higher amount so I can fix the plumbing of poorer people for free," explains Joe. "This has always been my philosophy. As a matter of fact, I lobbied the Democrat Congress, who passed this philosophy into law. Now all plumbers must do business this way. It's known as 'Affordable Plumbing Act of 2014.' I'm Surprised you haven't heard of it."

In spite of that, Obama tells Joe there's no way he's paying that much for a small plumbing repair, so Joe leaves. Obama spends the next hour flipping through the phone book calling for another plumber, but he finds that all other plumbing businesses in the area have gone out of business. Not wanting to pay Joe's price, Obama does nothing and the leak goes unrepaired for several more days. A week later the leak is so bad that Obama has had to put a bucket under the sink. Michelle is not happy, as she has guests arriving the next morning. The bucket fills up quickly and has to be emptied every hour and there's a risk that the room will flood, so Obama calls Joe and pleads with him to return.

Joe goes back to Obama's house, looks at the leaky pipe, checks his new rate chart and says, "Let's see, this will now cost you \$21,000."

Obama quickly fires back, "What! A few days ago you told me it would cost \$9,500!" Joe explains, "Well, because of the 'Affordable Plumbing Act,' a lot of wealthier people are learning how to maintain and take care of their own plumbing, so there are fewer payers into the plumbing exchanges. As a result, the price I have to charge wealthy people like you keeps rising. Not only that, but for some reason the demand for plumbing work by those who get it for free has skyrocketed! There's a long waiting list of those who need repairs but the amount we get doesn't cover our costs. This unfortunately has put a lot of my fellow plumbers out of business, they're not being replaced, and nobody is going into the plumbing business because they know they can't make any money at it. I'm hurting too, all thanks to greedy rich people like you who won't pay their fair share."

Obama says, "Joe! This is really bad. If all the rich people learn how to fix and maintain their own plumbing and you can't charge the poorer people, you'll be broke! What will you do then?"

Joe replies, "I may have to run for office!"

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Gun Owners Beware: Man Pulled Over, Harassed for Having Permit but No Gun



Photo credit: autos.aol.com

By Michael Dorstewitz, January 16, 2014, bizpacreview.com

Those who support the Second Amendment rights often get harassed — even when they're not exercising those rights. It happened to a Tampa-area businessman recently, and it wasn't pretty.

John Filippidis lives the American dream on Florida's Gulf Coast. He built a business, raised a family and plays by the rules. He also has a concealed-weapon license, and he often uses it, according to The Tampa Bay Tribune.

"I wanted to be able to defend my family, my household and the ground I'm standing on," he told The Tribune. "But I'm not looking for any trouble."

Filippidis decided to keep the gun home, locked in the safe, when the family took a road trip to New Jersey to celebrate Christmas and attend a wedding.

The visit went as planned. The family's return to Florida was another matter.

Shortly after entering Maryland with his wife, Kelly, and three teenage girls, Filippidis noticed he was being checked out by an unmarked police car. The car would follow for a bit, pull slowly ahead, then fall back again behind the family's 2012 Ford Explorer.

"Ten minutes he's behind us," Filippidis said. "We weren't speeding. In fact, lots of other cars were whizzing past. We keep wondering, is he going to do something?"

When the family was pulled over, they discovered they'd been bird-dogged by the Maryland Transportation Authority Police.

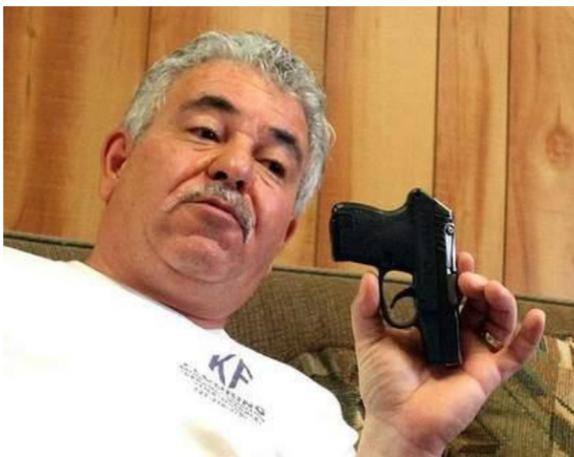
Ten minutes after an officer took Filippidis' license, registration and proof of insurance to his patrol car, he returned the documents, ordered him out of the vehicle and told him to hook his thumbs behind his back and spread his legs.

"You own a gun," the officer said. "Where is it?"

"At home in my safe," Filippidis replied.

The officer told him to stay put, then returned to the Explorer to check with Kelly Filippidis.

"Your husband owns a gun," he told her. "Where is it?"



John Filippidis with the pistol he occasionally carries / Photo credit: The Tampa Bay Tribune

She wasn't aware that he'd left it home, and told the officer it could be anywhere — in the glove box, in the console — she just didn't know. The officer walked back to Filippidis, who was still standing spread-legged between the SUV and cop car.

"You're a liar," the officer said. "You're lying to me. Your family says you have it. Where is the gun? Tell me where it is, and we can resolve this right now."

Right about this time, one has to ask, How did they know he was a gun owner? And why was he stopped in the first place?

The officer called in backup and spent the next two hours searching the Explorer and its contents. Probable cause of what? Legally possessing a firearm?

"All that time, he's humiliating me in front of my family, making me feel like a criminal," John Filippidis said. "I've never been to prison, never declared bankruptcy, I pay my taxes, support my 20 employees' families. I've never been in any kind of trouble."

With a sense of frustration, he told The Tribune: "And he wants to put me in jail. He wants to put me in jail. For no reason. He wants to take my wife and children away and put me in jail. In America, how does such a thing happen? ... And after all that, he didn't even write me a ticket."

According to The Tribune:

Now, despite having fielded apologies from the officer's captain as well as from a Maryland Transportation Authority Police internal affairs captain, John is wondering if he shouldn't just cancel his CCW license.

For a guy who's not looking for trouble, that's not an unreasonable conclusion. And it would please fans of gun control by any means. But let's hope John Filippidis, American family man, taxpayer and good guy, doesn't cave, because it would be a sad statement about the brittleness of our guarantees — some would call them sacred — under the Constitution.

After searching the vehicle, the officer let Filippidis leave with a warning. Warning for what? For not exercising his Second Amendment rights?

Is Florida Next?

Agenda 21 Swat Teams Are Seizing Private Property



By Dave Hodges, January 6, 2014, shtcommonsenseshow.com

The Antelope Valley is a desolate stretch of land on the fringes of Los Angeles County. Very few people want to live there except for a band of self-described rugged individualists. Common sense would dictate that these people have found a place where the government would just want to leave them alone. However, nothing could be farther from the truth. The residents of Antelope Valley are increasingly becoming the victims of SWAT team raids being carried out by local code enforcement agents. These governmental thugs refer to themselves as the Nuisance Abatement Teams (NATs).

Phonehenge



The plight of the Valley's desert dwellers made regional headlines when county officials ordered the destruction of Phonehenge: which is a massive, colorful castle constructed out of telephone poles by retired phone technician [Kim Fahey](#).

County officials showed up and tore down the structure and their court system sentenced the bearded retired phone company technician to **543 days in jail** because he said he couldn't afford to pay the \$80,000 for the demolition of the structure and the subsequent removal of the debris. Fahey served over a year and a half in jail for nothing more than a misdemeanor. His major crime was that "he fought the man".

Fahey Is Not Alone In Saying No



NATs are tax supported tyranny at work.

Fahey was just the first of several Antelope Valley residents who have been targeted by the NAT Agenda 21 SWAT teams. The creation of the Agenda 21 Swat teams which were assembled at the request of County Supervisor Mike Antonovich for the purposes of harassing "off the grid rugged individualists".

We are nearly eight years into this controversy. In 2006, LA Weekly reporter Mars Melnicoff wrote an in-depth article in which she exposed the county's tactic of badgering poor residents with extremely petty code violations, but attaching very costly fines to the violations. Over time the fines against these off the grid residents mounts until the residents are faced with little choice but to walk away from their properties without any compensation. Melnicoff concluded that LA County officials "Are picking on the people who are the most defenseless and have the least resources".

The NAT SWAT teams armed with M-16's and equipped in full body armor have harassed Antelope residents such as retired veteran Joey Gallo. Gallo faces homelessness if he's forced to vacate his house because he cannot afford to pay the massive fines associated with minuscule code violations.

Seventh Day Adventist pastor, Oscar Castaneda, states that he's already given up on fighting the county and has moved off the land where he and his wife had lived for 22 years.

The Irony of Nuisance Abatement Teams

The targeting of impacted Antelope Valley residents by "Nuisance Abatement Teams" has an ironic ring to it. The NATs are mostly about mitigating noise. Most of these residents do not live within a mile of the nearest neighbor. In some cases, 10 miles separates neighbors, which makes one wonder how anyone could be too noisy or pose a nuisance to their neighbors.

There Is the Reason and Then There's the Real Reason

I have been to Antelope Valley and its landscape is as desolate as the dark side of the moon. You can literally drive for miles and not see a building, a car or a person. The LA County Commissioners should be thrilled that anyone lives on that land because it does generate property tax revenue.

The local residents speculate that there is a decided effort to get the Antelope residents off of their land because some deep pocketed people with political connections can make money off this land and the politicians are all too willing to help. I agree that there is an ulterior motive connected to the SWAT team attacks on Antelope Valley Residents. However, the Agenda 21 police play a role as well.

This Sounds Familiar

Beginning in 2003, my rural community was targeted by our state and local politicians as they passed legislation to "restrict" our property rights. Restrict was a nice term for "get off of your land, we have a better use for it and we are not paying you". My community was told that we were in the way of the operations of Luke AFB, 30 miles to the south. The planes coming out of Luke had to fly over a quarter of a million people to reach my rural community, so we knew that was not the case. We subsequently found that three other Arizona communities were having similar restrictions in which the residents were told that if you have storm damage or a fire, you could not rebuild and we would be forced off of our land.

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This was de facto eminent domain utilizing an illegal practice called inverse condemnation.

As I was pouring over maps one late night, I discovered that all of the besieged property owners lived near or on a planned CANAMEX Highway. The odds of this being a coincidence are astronomical. If the powers that be could force us off our land through property rights restrictions under false pretenses, they could acquire the land rights for the highway for free. The CANAMEX Highway is the transportation arm of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). CAFTA and NAFTA are about connecting Canada, Mexico and the US. This cozy regionalized agreement is a big move towards the creation of the North American Union. The North American Union adheres closely to Agenda 21 policies. Agenda 21 policies also want nobody to live off of the grid in rural areas. The politicians beholding to Agenda 21 policies are committed to moving people to densely populated areas and if their land theft can turn a profit for a political friend, all the better.

When you watch the video (shtcommonsenseshow.com) you will see that Antelope Valley residents speculate as to what is behind the land theft by their county. Is their land being seized because a development is planned? Are people being forced off of their land because there is a highway planned to go through in the area? Is this Agenda 21 and let's force people off of their rural land? Is abuse being perpetrated because everyone must be on the grid and in the system. It is likely that all of their theories are correct. However, and you can take this to the bank, Agenda 21 forces are throwing money at the LA County Commissioners to do what they are doing with Agenda 21/ICLEI grants and loans. And certainly, no off the grid living is allowed and rural residents must move to inner city urban areas.

Conclusion

Before you pat your neighbor on the back and tell them that you are glad that you do not live in Arizona or in the Antelope Valley, you should consider that variations of this theme are being carried out in a neighborhood near you and this will be the topic of the next part of this series. If you do not live in the inner city, you have already been targeted and that will be the topic of part two of this series.

The GOP Open Borders Train Revs Up its Engine



By: Daniel Horowitz (Diary) | January 8th, 2014

For those of you who thought that our previous warnings about an amnesty push in the near-term were overblown, today's developments should serve as a wakeup call. In what was clearly a coordinated effort by the establishment, Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader Cantor issued a call for passing immigration legislation this year during their weekly conference meeting at the same time Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue made an emphatic pitch for amnesty.

Boehner and Cantor

House Speaker **John Boehner** (R., Ohio) and Majority Leader **Eric Cantor** (R., Va.) both included an immigration rewrite among the top 2014 priorities they outlined during a closed-door meeting with the GOP ranks, lawmakers said after the gathering.

Mr. Boehner told Republicans on Wednesday that he expected to release a set of GOP principles in the coming weeks. The speaker had announced in November that Republicans, including House Judiciary Chairman **Bob Goodlatte** (R., Va.), planned to draft the guidelines before bringing any immigration bills to the House floor.

Although many House Republicans have been wary of changing immigration laws, GOP leaders have consistently maintained they plan to tackle the topic in their own fashion. Mr. Boehner told lawmakers Wednesday that "This is an issue we have to deal with

and I continue to believe that," said Rep. **Matt Salmon** (R., Ariz.). [WSJ]

Donohue

The president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce vowed Wednesday that 2014 will be the year his organization pulls "out all of the stops" to pass immigration reform, pledging that the Chamber will turn the 2014 midterm elections "into a motivation for change."

"We're determined to make 2014 the year that immigration reform is finally enacted," Donohue said at his 2014 State of American Business address. "The Chamber will pull out all the stops – through grassroots lobbying, communications, politics and partnerships with unions, faith organization, law enforcement and other – to get it done."

Donohue refuted the idea that immigration reform would not pass in 2014, a midterm election year when very little, if anything, gets done on Capitol Hill.

"We hope to turn that assumption on its ear," he said. "It's based on a simple theory: If you can't make them see the light, then at least make them feel some heat." [CNN]

We've made this point a number of times, but it's worth repeating. Why would Republicans be in a hell-fire rush to pass immigration legislation when they have so little political power? These are the same folks who suggest that we can't even block bad things with control of just the U.S. House, even though the House is vested with control over the purse strings. Why would they think we can pass new immigration legislation built on conservative principles if it requires the cooperation of all three branches? Why in the world would Republicans reward Obama's malevolence and disregard for our immigration laws by granting him his biggest second-term agenda item? Why not wait until Republicans control the White House, and we can trust the president to faithfully execute the enforcement first, thereby precluding another 1986-style disaster?

Moreover, why would we distract attention from Obamacare and dispirit Republican voters in an election year?

These are all rhetorical questions. As we know, the GOP elites and their special interest backers do not share our values. They agree with Obama 100% on open borders.

And speaking of the special interests, the Chamber is promising to reward those who support their views and punish those who oppose amnesty. Accordingly, in light of their large media buy in support of Senator McConnell, has anyone asked the Minority Leader about his plans for immigration? Will he support the push in 2014?

Furthermore, McConnell's biggest selling point for his reelection is that he would be slated to become Majority Leader of the Senate. The most important consequence of obtaining that position is that he would control the floor schedule. And thanks to Harry Reid's new precedent, that would include control over the amendment process. Will McConnell pledge not to bring any immigration legislation or amendments to the floor as long as Obama is in the White House?

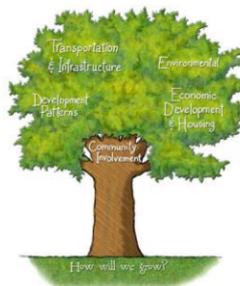
We all know the answer to that question. The tribe has already spoken. The fix is already in.

Port St. Lucie Likely to withdraw From Seven 50 Regional Plan, Taylor County Remains in Their Vision 2060 Plan



APN Staff, January 17, 2014

South Florida planners should change the name of their sustainable development plan that has been ditched by three counties of the original seven. Now we can report that the Port St. Lucie City Council instructed their city attorney, Roger Orr to draw up a Resolution for formally withdrawing from the Seven50 Regional Plan. The name, Seven 50 was supposed to mean their 50 year vision plan in seven counties.



In Indian River County some commissioners suggested the rename the plan "Four 50". Maybe a better name should be "Three and one half 50". Commissioner Bob Solari wanted something more direct. He suggested "HUD's One American Forever Plan". These are the groups that opted out of the plan:

Indian River County Commission, School Board and Metropolitan Planning Organization
City of Vero Beach and town of Indian River Shores
St. Lucie County Commission
Martin County Commission (as of Feb. 22)

Protect our Property Rights: Eliminate Regional Planning Councils

By John Hallman, January 16, 2014, libertyfirstfl.org

Regional Planning Councils were created by Florida law to coordinate transportation planning activities of municipalities and counties. Florida's 67 counties' areas are divided into 11 regions. Regional Planning Councils original purpose was to apply for and distribute federal funds to help with building roads and bridges, not dictate growth management to local governments.

Unfortunately, the 11 Florida Regional Planning Councils have become a de facto agency of the federal government to promote "Smart Growth" and "Sustainable Living" schemes at the expense of local control of land use decisions and private property rights.

Regional Planning Councils receive funding from the federal government to bypass our local and state representatives to implement "Smart growth" schemes (such as 7/50 in south Florida) that strip away our property rights, by pushing us into higher density urban centers, forcing us to give up our cars, use bikes, transit or walk to work and shop. As someone said "You will be forced to live in a 1200 sq. ft. condo above a donut shop by a transit stop".

Regional Planning Councils receive most of their funding through HUD and the Obama administration's "Sustainable Communities Initiative", where federal money is funneled to Regional Planning Councils to promote "Smart growth" schemes, and in order to access that money municipalities and counties must embrace the goals to regulate virtually every aspect of our lives... including housing, water, natural resources, transportation, land use, economic development, energy, cultural and historic resources, public health, education, environmental planning, energy and "climate change".

Also, this funding creates incentives for corruptive "pay to play" behavior by creating associations with the private sector (called stakeholders) where businesses will sign on to promote regional plans for the cash. This is simply using our tax dollars to buy support from the business community.

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities is an inter-agency of HUD, DOT and the EPA to provide funding to Regional Planning Councils. From their web site you will see their stated goals:

Partnership Grants, Assistance & Programs

The Partnership agencies periodically offer funding opportunities. When these grants are offered, they will be announced here and on www.grants.gov. In addition, each agency maintains websites to track their own grant announcements. The grants announced on these sites will also be on www.grants.gov.

HUD offers funding opportunities to help communities realize their own visions for building more livable, walkable, and environmentally sustainable regions.

DOT offers funding opportunities to support more livable walkable communities.

EPA offers grants to support activities that improve the quality of development and protect human health and the environment.

In addition, EPA maintains a listing of additional funding sources to build sustainable communities. **A guide to federal and other national sources** is available, as well as **a guide to regional, state, and local funding opportunities**.

It is painfully obvious that Regional Planning Councils are just a tool to advance a radical agenda to strip us of our property rights and create "equitable" high density housing with sidewalks and bike paths near public transit lines. Once we are forced off of rural lands by Florida Forever and the Wildlands Corridor Project, our liberty and freedom will be gone, probably forever. We will be told where we will live and work and what and how much we can consume.

Before it is too late, we must insist that the Florida Legislature eliminate Regional Planning Councils and their radical agenda.

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| Taylor County Commission Meeting January 21, 2014, Board Meeting, 5:30 PM January 28, 2014, Board Workshop, 5:30 PM |
| Perry City Council Meeting January 28, 2014, 5:30 PM |
| Taylor County School Board January 21, 2014, Board Meeting, 12:00 Noon January 24, 2014, Board Meeting, 6:00 PM |

Common Core –The Chamber of Commerce is Dead Wrong!



By Henry W. Burke, January 17, 2014

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce argues that

national standards will facilitate students who move to another state. Fact -- The percentage of school age children who moved out of state was only 0.3 % of the total population!

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has strongly voiced its support in favor of the Common Core Standards. The Chamber of Commerce is dead wrong to support the Common Core Standards. Because the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is such a powerful and influential organization, they need to stop supporting the Obama administration's education plan that will harm instead of help children.

In fact, the Chamber of Commerce is finding themselves on the wrong side of CCS because grassroots citizens are rising up all over this country and in protest are opting their children out of the CCS lessons and assessments.

I believe that a pro-growth, pro-business outlook can do wonders for America. Our economy has stalled since the recession began in 2008; and the economic recovery under Obama has been rather pathetic! Unemployment remains high and millions of workers have dropped out of the labor force. We have the lowest labor force participation rate in 36 years! Economic growth, as measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is non-existent.

I am a Civil Engineer with over 40 years of experience in the construction industry. I retired from one of the largest construction companies in the U.S., a highly respected, growing corporation. I write extensively on education and economic issues because I care deeply about the future of our country. Much of this writing has focused on the Common Core Standards (CCS).

1. Myth -- The Common Core Standards Are High Quality.

The website for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation begins the Common Core talking points by addressing "What are the Common Core State Standards?" It states:

The Common Core State Standards are a set of high-quality academic expectations in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics that define both the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to be on track for success in college and career.

Similar arguments are advanced by Chamber President Tom Donohue. In a 10.22.13 article on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce website, "Dispelling Common Core Myths," Donohue stated:

Common Core is an elevated set of standards—not a curriculum. It focuses on the building blocks of learning, such as reading and math, and is designed to be applicable in the real world—namely, college or career.

Fact -- The Common Core Standards are not high quality standards!

The Common Core proponents love to talk about "college and career."

Dr. Sandra Stotsky was formerly in charge of developing the widely praised Massachusetts English/Language Arts Standards. She has written extensively about the lack of quality of the Common Core, particularly in the area of literature. Dr. Stotsky should know; she sat on the Common Core Validation Committee and refused to validate the standards. Sandra Stotsky is professor of education reform emerita, University of Arkansas.

The states that adopted the standards in 2010 did so before the Common Core standards for English and language arts were even finalized. The Common Core advocates argue that these standards would make all students "college-ready," but Dr. Stotsky has stated that the Common Core Standards will not produce "college-ready" students.

By reducing the study of complex literary texts and by requiring teachers to place a heavy emphasis instead on informational text, Common Core decreases the students' opportunities to develop analytical thinking skills.

Hence Common Core students will be less prepared for college.

Students develop a love for reading when they read the rich literary classics. Would a student rather read a

wonderful piece of literature or the informational text found in a boring government document, executive order, or insulation manual? Such boring, non-literary articles will absolutely kill the love of reading! Informational texts belong in other classes, not in English classes.

The mathematics standards are not any better.

The Pioneer Institute recently published a report by R. James Milgram and Sandra Stotsky, "Lowering the Bar: How Common Core Math Fails to Prepare High School Students for STEM."

R. James Milgram is professor of mathematics emeritus, Stanford University. He was a member of Common Core's Validation Committee 2009-2010.

Professor Milgram states the following in the Pioneer white paper:

With the exception of a few standards in trigonometry, the math standards END after Algebra II. They include no precalculus or calculus.

The Common Core mathematics standards do not make high school graduates "college and career-ready," as the Common Core proponents claim. The national mathematics standards will not prepare students to study science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in a selective four-year college.

The Pioneer report concludes by offering these chilling indictments:

At this time we can conclude only that a gigantic fraud has been perpetrated on this country, in particular on parents in this country, by those developing, promoting, or endorsing Common Core's standards. We have no illusion that the college-readiness level in ELA will be any more demanding than Common Core's college-readiness level in mathematics.

Dr. Stotsky wonders why industry leaders, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, are supporting the Common Core Standards, even though the standards are blatantly inferior.

How could so many supposedly sophisticated industry and business leaders not understand that Common Core Math will not prepare students for jobs in their fields? Surely they have people on their staffs – engineers and technology people – who could offer their opinion!

2. Myth -- The Common Core Standards Were Created by a State-Led Initiative.

On the U.S. Chamber website, the discussion of Common Core continues with this statement:

They were created through a state-led initiative and have been adopted by 45 states and the District of Columbia.

Fact -- The Common Core Standards (CCS) were initiated by private interests in Washington, D.C.

To produce a facade of state involvement, the CCS creators enlisted the support of two D.C.-based trade associations -- the National Governors Association (NGA), and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The Common Core Standards were created primarily by Achieve, Inc. (also a D.C.-based organization).

It takes more than sending a few state education bureaucrats to an NGA / CSSO meeting in Washington, D.C. to make it a truly "state-led" process. Private interests drove the Common Core process; and massive funding was supplied by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Common Core Standards have been adopted by 46 states (45 states plus the District of Columbia), but a number of them are now backing out of the assessments and/or other aspects of the Common Core Standards Initiative.

3. Myth -- The Common Core Standards were written by teachers.

The U.S. Chamber website makes this claim:

A diverse team of teachers, parents, administrators, researchers, and content experts developed the Common Core to be academically rigorous, attainable for students, and practical for teachers and districts.

On the Chamber website, Tom Donohue and John Engler proclaimed:

Common Core was created at the state level - where our most innovative policies often originate - by governors and state officials.

Fact -- Parents and teachers were completely excluded from the writing process.

David Coleman and Susan Pimentel were the lead writers of the Common Core English Language Arts Standards; neither Coleman nor Pimentel have had any experience teaching English.

The whole writing process lacked transparency, with no outside review or disclosure. In fact, the members of the Common Core Validation Committee had to sign confidentiality agreements. There were no public hearings as the Common Core drafts were being written; and parents and teachers were completely excluded from the writing process.

4. Myth -- The National Standards will facilitate students who move to another state.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce continues the Common Core discussion with this often-cited statement:

The standards establish consistent learning goals for all students – regardless of where they live – so that they stay on track in school when moving from one state to another.

Fact -- Very few students move to another state.

America is a very mobile country. The advocates for Common Core Standards invariably argue that national standards would make it easier for those people who move around the country. The argument sounds reasonable, but we need to look at the facts.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 36 million people moved in 2012-2013. With a total U.S. population of 307 million people, this means that 11.7 % of the people moved. [35.918 million/307.243 million = 11.7 %] However, most of the people (30.111 million or 84 % of the people who moved) moved within the same state.

To justify national standards, a significant number of people would have to move to another state (within the U.S.). About 4.770 million people moved to a different state in 2012-2013 (13 % of the people who moved). This represents 1.6 % of the total population.

[4.770 million/307.243 million = 1.6 %]

How many school age children moved to a different state? In 2012-2013, 0.884 million children (ages 5-19) moved to a different state (2.5 % of the people who moved). [0.884 million/35.918 million = 2.5 %] This represents 0.3 % of the total population.

[0.884 million/307.243 million = 0.3 %]

In summary, only 1.6 % of the total population moved to a different state in 2012-2013. The percentage of school age children who moved out of state was only 0.3 % of the total population (negligible).

The national standards / moving reasoning is clearly a bogus argument!

5. Myth -- The Common Core Standards will make the U.S. more competitive with other countries.

On 8.08.13, Tom Donohue and John Engler wrote "Common Core brings benefits to both education and our economy" (Chamber website). They argued:

Among the 34 leading industrialized countries, the United States ranks 14th in reading literacy, 17th in science and a dismal 25th in math. It should surprise no one that we've fallen from No. 1 in the world in the percentage of young adults with college degrees to No. 10.

Common Core is also on par with international standards. Currently, our young people are being outperformed by students in countries like South Korea, Finland, Canada, Poland and Australia. The initiative aims to solve this problem by raising our educational standards, enabling Americans to compete with global peers.

Fact -- The U.S. has slipped internationally, but Common Core will hinder rather than help our plight.

Professor William McCallum, one of the three writers of the Common Core Math Standards, admitted: *...that the overall standards would not be too high, certainly not in comparison [with] other nations, including East Asia, where math education excels.*

Jim Stergios, Executive Director of the Pioneer Institute, published an article on 8.07.13, "

Stergios explained that "internationally benchmarking" would mean that the writing team had conducted extensive research and direct comparative analysis on the standards with other countries. Mr. Stergios quoted Dr. Sandra Stotsky as follows:

As a member of Common Core's Validation Committee from September 2009 to August 2010, among the criteria I was asked to sign off on in May 2010 was whether Common Core's standards were "comparable to the expectations of other leading nations."

Despite making regular requests since September 2009 for evidence of international benchmarking, I received no material on the academic expectations of other leading nations in mathematics or language and literature. I was one of the five members of the 23-member committee who declined to sign off after examining the final version of the standards.

The Common Core advocates have removed this "internationally benchmarked" claim from most of their websites. Nevertheless, companies like Exxon continue to repeat this internationally benchmarked lie in their television advertisements.

CONCLUSION

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is openly supporting the Common Core Standards and is dutifully repeating the typical Common Core talking points. It is rather easy to refute these flimsy arguments.

Because the Common Core Standards are far from pro-business and pro-capitalism, it is hard to understand why the Chamber of Commerce has come down on the Common Core side. Quite likely, the answer lies in the money that will be made from the whole Common Core oligarchy.

Millions of dollars will be spent on professional development, instructional materials, assessments, and technology. The best estimate places the total Common Core implementation cost for the 46 CCS states at \$16 billion, over the first seven-year period. In the Chamber's eyes, I guess money trumps a truly educated populace. This is a sad commentary on a major American organization!

Common Core Could Be Costly for Catholic Schools, Report Finds

By Bob Laird, January 17, 2014, cardinalnewmansociety.org



"Follow the money" may suggest one reason why some organizations promote the controversial Common Core State Standards

(CCSS)—the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has poured thousands of dollars into pro-Common Core grantees, including more than \$100,000 to the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)—but money may also be a reason for schools to stay away from the Common Core.

In the latest of a series of papers from The Cardinal Newman Society on the Common Core, education professor Denise Donohue of Ave Maria University investigates the cost of technological requirements for testing under Common Core.

She finds that "one quickly sees that the expense associated with implementation of the new evaluation instruments is in excess of hundreds of thousands of dollars." She also points to other tests that were normalized prior to the institution of the CCSS, can better assess the progress of students, and can do so at a much lower cost.

Donohue dissects the cost of the most popular of the assessments produced by The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC) and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. These tests require computer memory capacity and screen display size in excess of that found in the most popular school computers. "These requirements," said Donohue, "eliminate popular Netbooks and iPad minis or any of the new versions that have display sizes smaller than the required 9.5 inches."

The actual cost of the assessments runs between \$22.50 and \$29.00 per test. With five assessments required each year for the English and Language Arts, the costs quickly mount.

As for alternatives, Donohue suggests the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, which was normalized before most schools fully implemented CCSS and "will probably be available

for 10 years or longer, at which time a newer edition will be released along with a new set of norms." She also notes that there is a cost associated with implementing the technology upgrades and the training of the educators and students in the specific tests.

It seems that for parochial, private, and public schools that are committed to any of the testing consortia, little can be done to escape the costs and time necessary for technology upgrades and teacher and student training. For schools that are considering the CCSS assessment options and are in states governed by one of the consortia, considerations including computer upgrades, additional per-pupil testing costs, and possible additional testing time need to be budgeted and allotted.

Donohue's report is the seventh in a series of papers which are part of the Newman Society's Catholic Is Our Core project, helping keep key stakeholders in Catholic education – Catholic families, pastors, teachers, principals, superintendents and bishops – informed about the Common Core and its potential impact on Catholic education.

The LFN Legislative Spotlight: HB 25, Common Core



By Paul Henry, January 07, 2014, libertyfirstfl.org

HB 25 is sponsored by Rep. Debbie Mayfield with co-sponsors of Reps. Broxson, Eagle, and Van Zant. We

have an information page on the Common Core (CC), so if you are not familiar with this issue, please go there to read about it.

We support this bill as it currently exists.

ACTION NEEDED: This bill has no Senate companion, and must have one to move forward. It has been referred to three committees but has not been scheduled for any hearings- something else that must take place for movement. We suggest you contact your Senator and ask them to sponsor a companion bill. We'd also suggest contacting Senate President Gaetz and Governor Scott and asking them to support the bill.

As is our goal in doing this type of post, we will later look at the bill from the perspective of liberty, and seek to address some questions:

1. Is it Constitutional?
2. Can we afford it?
3. Is it a proper role of government?
4. Will it do what it seeks to do- i.e. solve a problem?



Rep. Debbie Mayfield

HB 25 is titled "Public School Curricular Standards and Assessments" and there is currently no companion bill in the Senate. What it does is create a new law that:

(1) Blocks the state board of education (board) from implementing CC standards for English language arts and mathematics until certain requirements have been met:

At least one public hearing is held in each congressional delegation of Florida with at least one member of the board in attendance and with public testimony taken on the implementation of CC standards in Florida's public schools, and

A financial analysis of the projected cost to implement CC standards is presented to the board. This requires the Dept. of Education to use a third-party that has expertise in curricular standards for the analysis.

(2) It also prohibits the state board of education from adopting or revising standards so as to effectively implement CC until the above conditions were met. The board must compare CC standards to other national standards of student achievement, and the board may not adopt CC standards in any area other than English Language Arts and mathematics.

(3) It requires Florida to withdraw from the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers* (PARCC) and prohibits implementing assessments aligned to the CC standards. It requires the state to adopt new assessments to provide "valid, reliable, and timely" tests of student performance.

(4) Finally, it prohibits the board from renewing or entering into an agreement that cedes control over

standards to an outside entity.

We support what this bill does.

The final point of the bill is one of considerable importance, as in our opinion, turning over control of curriculum to an outside entity would violate Article 9 of the Florida Constitution's reservation of supervision to the state board of education.

Now for the scoring:

1. Is it Constitutional?

Yes. Education of children is not a power delegated to the federal government in the US Constitution, and it is not prohibited to the States, so it is reserved to the States, or to the people per the Tenth Amendment. The Florida Constitution deals with education in Article 9. Section 1 begins with "The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida.", so the bill's granting of educational control to the State of Florida is constitutional under the Florida Constitution. Section 1 continues with "Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education...", so the bill's goals align with the Florida Constitution. Section 2 gives the state board of education supervisory power over the state educational system. The legislature has authority over the board, so again there is no constitutional violation or conflict.

2. Can we afford it?

A tentative yes. The spending that is apparent would be the cost to perform the third-party financial analysis of the cost of CC standards. There may be other expenses that are not known if curriculum needed to be changed to comply with the bill. It is our opinion that the public money spent on this endeavor is worthwhile as it is essential to avoid the problems we have found with CC.

3. Is it a proper role of government?

Yes. As noted above, the Florida Constitution clearly reserves this power to the State. We will not get into a discussion of privatized education at this time, as our focus is on the CC standards.

4. Will it do what it seeks to do- i.e. solve a problem?

Yes. The intent of the bill is very clear, that of keeping Florida out of CC standards. As we have researched, the problems and dangers of CC are numerous. It is essential to adhere to Section 9 of the Florida Constitution with state sovereignty over education.

There is currently no Senate companion bill, so until such time as there is one, this bill will not be going anywhere.

We support the enacting of this bill and encourage the Senate to take up a companion so the issue can be debated in both chambers.

Conflicts of Interest by Common Core Supporters



By Stop Common Core Coalition

The Common Core standards system is funded by a very tangled web of government, quasi-government, and unaccountable private entities. While there are other corporations and foundations involved, the eight hundred pound gorilla in this effort is by far and away the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which has given over \$150 million to this cause so far. The Microsoft Corporation stands to reap billions in profits from the educational software and testing involved with the new standards. The Gates' influence, however, has been enlarged by several orders of magnitude because their contributions have gone to other organizations involved in writing and promoting the standards to the public and policymakers. These include Achieve, The Council of Chief State School Officers, and the National Governor's Association that wrote the standards, and then the Thomas B. Fordham Institute which rates state standards, and of course found that the Common Core was better than most of the state standards they reviewed. The national PTA, which is trying to calm parents' concerns about the standards, also received large contributions.

In Florida, it is important to note that two foundations founded by former governor Jeb Bush have received significant contributions from the Gates Foundation and both the governor and his foundations have been actively promoting the standards to the point of testifying against delaying or defunding Common Core in Indiana and Michigan. In fact 26/32 of the organizations that testified against Indiana's "pause" legislation, including the two Bush foundations, received contributions from the Gates Foundation. Fortunately they were all ultimately unsuccessful in Indiana as they were in Michigan. Indiana "paused" the implementation of Common Core and Michigan defunded the standards and their implementation pending further review.