



Obama's Executive Order on Climate Change is Going to Cost Americans More Than Just Taxes

By Tim Brown, November 1, 2013 freedomoutpost.com

On Friday Barack Obama issued an executive order on climate change which directs a government-wide effort to boost preparation in states and local communities for the impact of global warming, you know that scam that has been pushed on the world for the past couple of decades? Yes, that global warming. This executive order expands upon his previous one following Hurricane Sandy and will not only cost billions in taxpayer dollars, but will drive up the cost of energy.



The order reads that the feds will be working to build "resilience" against major storms and other weather extremes. No doubt this is going to cost a lot of money, which I was under the impression that we just don't have.

"The impacts of climate change — including an increase in prolonged periods of excessively high temperatures, more heavy downpours, an increase in wildfires, more severe droughts, permafrost thawing, ocean acidification and sea-level rise — are already affecting communities, natural resources, ecosystems, economies and public health across the nation," the executive order reads. "The federal government must build on recent progress and pursue new strategies to improve the nation's preparedness and resilience."

Oh, and you can count on more government bureaucracy as this executive order establishes the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

Already, the federal government has been shown to be inefficient in dealing with major weather related issues. Just look at New York and New Jersey in 2012 and you can readily recognize how inefficient FEMA was. Local authorities and charity groups were far more helpful than the feds. In fact, one could argue that the states keeping the money this will cost would be best used to serve the people, rather than Washington.

However, it's the underhanded and deceitful way this is promoted. It's promoted as "climate change."

Following Hurricane Sandy, Obama issued an executive order which called on Americans to adapt to climate change. He wrote:

"The impacts of climate change — including an increase in prolonged periods of excessively high temperatures, more heavy downpours, an increase in wildfires, more severe droughts, permafrost thawing, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise — are already affecting communities, natural resources, ecosystems, economies, and public health across the nation."

Obama adds to the previous executive order with this one, ordering the Department of Defense, EPA, NOAA, and several other agencies to meet within nine months and create a plan to adapt their land-and-water-related policies to protect watersheds and natural resources in the face of climate change, including a timeline for any changes.

An overhaul plan revealed earlier this year was praised by many for its efforts at adding protections against climate change. Its actual effects though are proving devastating. Already, the EPA has moved forward with attempts to reduce coal plant pollution by requiring new plants to adopt carbon capture systems in the coming years, and more changes are on the horizon.

Already Obama's war on coal has forced the shutdown of a 60 year old Utah coal plant, with subsequent job loss and increased prices in energy.

However, Obama isn't stopping there. No, he's using taxpayer money, \$8 billion in fact, to wage war on coal. So he's using our tax money to fight companies that provide us

with cheap energy, in order to drive up the cost. Americans are being screwed from both ends by Obama, while at the same time his miserable failures are being kept under wraps by his useful idiots, the media.

Engineer Obama Continues Driving America Off the Tracks



By Alan Bates, MD, November, 2013

Socialism? Marxism? Communism? You must be joking! Not here in the land of the free! So say the ignorant and naive while those who call themselves 'Progressives' progressively destroy America's free-market system piece by piece in their perverted attempt to establish an unobtainable utopia (1). The (UN)Affordable Care Act is wreaking havoc across the nation as millions of Americans who were told by Obama they could keep their healthcare plan and their doctors receive cancellation letters from their private health insurance carriers. Florida Blue just this week cancelled some 300,000 individual policies while two companies in California cancelled about 279,000. These are just two states, with the CBO estimating that at least 16-20 million Americans are going to lose their insurance under the UnACA. The rollout of Obama's 'signature' socialist healthcare plan has been abysmal with most enrollees signing up for Medicaid thus far while millions more cannot enroll due to technical 'glitches' which are the fault of Republicans, according to HHS Secretary Sebelius. Blaming Bush for the incompetent Obama administration's failures has caught on with his underlings. Worse still, and hardly covered by the lamestreet media, is that plans offered through the Federal exchanges will severely restrict patient choices for care, while often bringing higher deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses. In some cases premiums are higher than before, and this is certainly true for private plans which must offset the expensive 'one-size fits all' requirements of Obamacare by raising premiums on their customers. In summary, the UnACA is UNCONSTITUTIONALLY wrecking the nation's healthcare system while UNCONSTITUTIONALLY encroaching on personal privacy rights. Nowhere in the Constitution is Fedzilla endowed with the power to provide healthcare—in this case impose it upon all citizens. Powers not endowed to the Federal government by our Constitution are left to the states and We the People--ie. the private sector free-market. Justice Roberts got it wrong!

Some believe that the ACA is a ploy by Left wing globalists to engineer collapse of America's private healthcare system so that Fedzilla can replace it with a government-controlled system, thus achieving complete control of the American people in ways previously thought unimaginable. We already know that Fedzilla cannot efficiently and cost-effectively run anything! So why do our elected representatives let the cancer of government keep growing? Ignorance, apathy, and gullibility for lies from the Left allow these criminals to enslave the people in return for promises never kept. Too many now believe in the false security promised by Fedzilla, but do not realize the ensuing loss of their freedoms which result. One need to look no further than the urban rot which has occurred to once-thriving major cities like Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis and DC where Democrats have been in complete control of local governments for decades. They are the party which wants minorities to forget that the Democrat Party was once the party of slavery and segregation. That underlying theme of the socialist Democrats has not changed, but merely changed into a different costume. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are willing instruments of Leftwing power elites such as George Soros, whose goal is to destroy the only remaining free-market nation on Earth, and along

with that our liberty, our wealth, our cultural and moral values, our stature amongst world nations, all for the purpose of CONTROL and GREED. Yet their lies still fool too many Americans who just don't get it. Many of the pieces necessary to achieve the Left's perverse evil goals are now in place: destruction of the balance of powers outlined in our Constitution, appointment of leftwing ideologues by Obama to Federal agencies which usurp the powers endowed to Congress by our Constitution; appointment of the corrupt IRS to enforce the Left's objectives; and expansion of NSA's assignment to domestic spying which gives Fedzilla and its agencies unbridled invasion of our privacy. Patriotic Americans should not tolerate the corruption imposed on us by those whose goal it is to destroy our freedom, shred our Constitution, and transform America into a totalitarian state at the center of which is all-powerful government instead of We the People and our Creator who endowed us with our liberty. Our Creator also endows believers with the means to counter evil through organization at local and state levels followed by unification of all patriot groups behind a central purpose into a powerful national force which will bring tyrants to justice. How much longer will we wait?

Affordable Boat Act

Parody by APN Staff



The U.S. government has just passed a new law called: "The affordable boat act" declaring that every citizen MUST purchase a new

boat, by April 2014. These "affordable" boats will cost an average of \$54,000-\$155,000 each. This does not include taxes, trailers, towing fees, licensing and registration fees, fuel, docking and storage fees, maintenance or repair costs. This law has been passed, because until now, typically only wealthy and financially responsible people have been able to purchase boats. This new laws ensures that every American can now have an "affordable" boat of their own, because everyone is "entitled" to a new boat. If you purchase your boat before the end of the year, you will receive 4 "free" life jackets; not including monthly usage fees.

In order to make sure everyone purchases an affordable boat, the costs of owning a boat will increase on average of 250-400% per year. This way wealthy people will pay more for something that other people do not want or can not afford to maintain. But to be fair, people who can not afford to maintain their boat will be regularly fined and children (under the age of 26) can use their parents boats to party on until they turn 27; then must purchase their own boat. If you already have a boat, you can keep yours (just kidding; no you can not). If you do not want or do not need a boat, you are required to buy one anyhow. If you refuse to buy one or can not afford one, you will be regularly fined \$800 until you purchase one or face imprisonment.

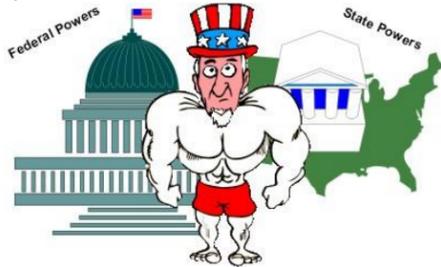
Failure to use the boat will also result in fines. People living in the desert; ghettos; inner cities or areas with no access to lakes are not exempt. Neither age, motion sickness, experience, knowledge nor lack of desire are acceptable excuses for not using your boat.

A government review board (that does not know the difference between the port, starboard or stern of a boat) will decide everything, including; when, where, how often and for what purposes you can use your boat along with how many people can ride your boat and determine if one is too old or healthy enough to be able to use their boat. They will also decide if your boat has out lived its usefulness or if you must purchase specific accessories, (like a \$500 compass) or a newer and more expensive boat. Those that can afford yachts will be required to do so...it is only fair.

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The Right Fix for America: Grass-Roots – the Power of the People

By Chuck Collins, October 16, 2013



In the 2014 elections, we must unmask our national politician's best-kept secret: that

what they see as the be-all and end-all of modern governance, the states, are fast becoming an obsolete political structure.

In the United States, for the first time in many decades, a new generation is coming of age with a lower standard of living than their parents'. They are faced with a choice: continued loss of personal freedoms and a prolonged drift into irrelevance, or they can stand up and face the issues head on.

The time is ripe for a national, generational, non-partisan, grass-roots movement to take back our country and our way of life. And before forming a new political party, we should look to the success stories of the many states where there have been numerous advances in the areas of education, health care, flexible employment, border security, gender equality and much, much more, to determine what our national platform might be. We then can bring these solutions to the other states to look critically at these successes to see if they are applicable to their needs.

At times, we conservatives will differ on many issues. These differences should not cause us to splinter into fighting factions trying to get to the same result; they should cause us to pause and come to agreement on the basic issues of where we as a country want to go in the future. We will agree on about 80% or more of the issues facing us. The other 20% can be implemented in the states and allowed to bubble up to the national level at the right time with more robust solutions from which we can choose.

Also, we cannot continue to sacrifice good, solid conservatives because of one perceived mistake in voting. If we continue to do this then we will have no real conservative leadership; we'll only have the moderates who want to compromise our values away. All of us must remember that only one man has ever lived in this world that did not make a mistake or commit a sin. We must share with these leaders our frustrations and really support those with a strong conservative service record of supporting us.

We can take our country back to its founding roots where we can experience the freedoms of our ancestors. Many of us do not know what has been lost and need to examine our current political environment and direction to see if we are willing to give up any more of our remaining freedoms.

It is not that all of our elected leaders are malevolent or incapable of facing this challenge. They simply are not wired to understand the reality of today's political landscape. It has changed considerably over the last 7 to 12 years. It is naïve to expect traditional politicians who have been repeatedly elected for many terms to adequately address issues like resource scarcity, chronic under or unemployment, border security, educational initiatives that are not working, oil independence, among other global issues that will take decades to resolve at our current stalemated pace.

Today's solutions need to be grounded in the 50 laboratories (the individual states) that have the flexibility and the will to responsibly meet the needs of their citizens, or they won't be real solutions at all and those local politicians won't remain in office. The goods and services that have been provided at the federal level are mediocre, at best, if they work at all!

We cannot afford to continue to be fooled by our leaders' self-aggrandizing delusion that, in terms of policy making, the federal state is the appropriate vehicle for our times. Our national politicians do not even read the bills they are passing. Nor do they approve the regulations that the non-elected bureaucrats write and implement as laws that we must follow. Our federal representatives have abdicated their primary responsibility which is to represent the people of this great country.

Instead, we must fully embrace what many of us already sense – that we stand at the mid-day of a progressive era in which Americans have a choice to continue to embrace or outright reject. If we continue to embrace the centralization

of power at the federal level, we will continue down the path of dependency leading to a laggardly people and, I dare say, within 10 years we will not recognize our country. Or we can stop this madness and embrace the original path of state's rights with a small federal government and return the United States of America to its rightful place as a national leader on the world stage letting the individual states govern their people.

If we don't, America risks becoming a stereotype of Europe: a place with good hospitals and millions of people without adequate medical care in a timely manner, lacking in technological leadership in many areas, and many people at times, with limited access to world-class universities, and generations held back because of parochial worldviews.

We are, strangely, the first generation of citizens that doubt our own political project, a republic that is unique in the world and that still draws people from every country in the world to our shores. Our country still offers anyone, regardless of class or ethnicity, the opportunity to freely succeed in any entrepreneurial endeavor without governmental interference. It is the exceptionalism of the American people that is unique to the world that draws these people to our borders. We will lose this freedom in *this* generation if we do not stand up now!

There is an old Jewish saying, "If you have only two choices, then choose the third." The point is not to replace America's "go along to get along" style of leadership with a dictatorship of the young. The point is to focus this movement – it must be carried by all those who, regardless of their age, agree that we must shift more power to the rising youth as citizen-legislators, so we can successfully reduce the debt and governmental burdens with which we are saddling our future generations.

These younger Americans have grown up in austerity, having to cut budgets and who are digital natives. Unlike our leaders today, they are well adapted to an increasingly rapid pace of change, and their instinct is to use the most innovative and cost-effective methods to achieve the goals of the American people.

In America, politics has become too much about individual personalities, careers and partisanship, and too little about what produces tangible results. Rather than bickering over whose federal policies are preferable, we need an "American" effort to determine our best practices in every field and adopt them principally to external objects, such as war, peace, negotiation and foreign commerce, with taxation restricted to only these. Thus, in limiting the reach of the federal government into every citizen's life, restores the liberties and properties of the people, and the internal order, improvement, and prosperity of the state.

From the 50 laboratories mentioned earlier, we can determine, on a national level, which models offer the experience of which tested improvements to the human condition are successful, scalable and applicable to the national population. We have never allowed this to happen in our country's existence. One recent idea, health care at a state level, was thought to be applicable at the national level without looking at its successes or failures, and without looking at whether the idea was scalable to the national level. We currently have an unworkable health care program that was never carefully thought out or debated to see which features were applicable or affordable. The rules are still being written and no one knows where our health care rules and regulations are going to take us. There is no accountability for these rules and regulations.

America will not be changed by the elections of 2014. It will only change when freedom-minded politicians who are elected to the federal legislature agree to transfer many of the powers the federal government has usurped back to the states, where they rightfully belong.

We need our politicians to know that we no longer buy their federal bluff, that we don't share their fear of 'we, the people don't know what we're doing.' If we continue moving more toward the federal state, our current state legislatures and elected officials become irrelevant.

Either we harness the power of our people and our resources, changing the direction of our political landscape to restore the greatest form of government the world has ever seen, or we let the pace of world government (United Nations) overtake our laws and rights, leaving us without any right of self-government or personal rights or the right to own property.

The first step is to start voting not as Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Libertarians, Green Party, or whatever other political flavor of the day, but voting as "Americans" for our freedoms, our rights to own property, to choose our profession, to choose where we live, and to choose with whom we fellowship. As one of my favorite commentator's used to say, **Wake Up America!**

Lazy Gun?



anonymous

Today I swung my front door wide open and placed my Ruger Mini 14 .223 right in the doorway. I left 20 cartridges beside it, then left it alone and went about my business.

While I was gone, the mailman delivered my mail, the neighbor boy across the street mowed the yard, a girl walked her dog down the street, and quite a few cars stopped at the stop sign near the front of our house.

After about an hour, I checked on the gun. It was still sitting there, right where I had left it. It hadn't moved itself outside. It certainly hadn't killed anyone, even with the numerous opportunities it had been presented to do so.

In fact, it hadn't even loaded itself. Well you can imagine my surprise, with all the media hype about how dangerous guns are and how they kill people.

Either the media is wrong or I'm in possession of the laziest gun in the world.

Well, I'm off to check on my spoons. I hear they're making people fat.

Permit Issued for Demonstration Across From White House The Beginning of the Non-Violent, Peaceful, Second American Revolution

Date: November 19, 2013

Time: 10:00 am – 6:30 pm

Place: Lafayette Park



(Washington, D.C., November 6, 2013). Today, Larry Klayman, the founder of Freedom Watch and an

organizer of "Reclaim America Now Coalition", announced that the **National Park Service** has granted the coalition a permit to meet and protest the Obama administration's continuing failure to take into account and redress the grievances of the American people. The demonstration will also address President Obama's cover-up of various scandals, including the growing NSA scandal. It will include not only persons who have been summoned to Washington, D.C., to assemble and show the resolve of the people, but also will include prominent speakers such as **Former U.S. Attorney and Congressman Bob Barr**, **Former U.N. Ambassador Alan Keyes**, and others from all walks of life who have been aggrieved by the policies and actions of President Obama and other government leaders. See www.reclaimamericanow.net.

Never before has such a widespread coalition been compiled to show peaceful, non-violent force, as in the days leading up to the American Revolution. As our Founding Father and second president declared, "When the government fears the people, there is liberty." In the style of Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and others who have changed history and **reclaimed freedom**, Americans have no choice – as the three branches of government have completely abdicated their representation of citizens' complaints. The government needs to fear that the people will rise up if things do not change in Washington, D.C.

A list of demands of **legitimate grievances** will be presented to President Obama and other government leaders, which they can remedy or resign from office.

Klayman, one of the organizers of this effort, said: "We the People have had enough of the corrupt and incompetent ways of the Obama administration and its bipartisan political enablers. It is time for action, not words. Together, the American people will prevail and will save this nation from extinction at the hands of a present government that could care less about the legitimate needs of the people. We welcome persons from all spectra of society to join us in this quest to reclaim freedom for the masses."



DID YOU KNOW?

Swat Teams

Many federal agencies have their own law enforcement sections, and many include swat teams, such as the Federal Department of Education, IRS, EPA, DOE, the National Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.

Veteran's Day

Originating from the end of World War I, "Armistice Day", was decreed by President Woodrow Wilson to commemorate the end of the war. After the Korean Conflict, President Dwight D. Eisenhower renamed it "Veterans Day". We celebrate by honoring our Veterans who have defended our country, sacrificing to preserve the American values which are so close to our hearts. Please take time to thank a veteran for their service everyday, and especially on Monday, November 11th.

Obama/Jindal

Barack Obama and Bobby Jindal had a spat over Obamacare expansion last Friday at a rally on a wharf on the Mississippi River. Louisiana is one of 24 states that refused funds to expand Medicaid. Jindal said in a statement that the expansion would cost Louisiana too much money.

Liberty in Liberty County!

By Sheriff Richard Mack, November 1, 2013



On October 31, 2013, Sheriff Nick Finch won his case at trial in Liberty County, Florida. The charges were complete nonsense to begin with, and the laughter in the courtroom was difficult to suppress as the prosecution presented its flimsy, farcical case.

Sheriff Finch was charged and arrested and booked into his own jail last June. Sheriff Finch had done something nearly unheard of, yet noble and courageous. He nullified the arrest of a law abiding citizen who had the audacity of carrying a gun in his pocket. Sheriff Finch said "not on my watch." So the State moved in, arrested the Sheriff and re-arrested the citizen, Mr. Parish.

The end result was Finch was removed from office and went to trial. Mr. Parish once again had the charges dropped, but he was ordered to perform 50 hours of community service and pay \$200.

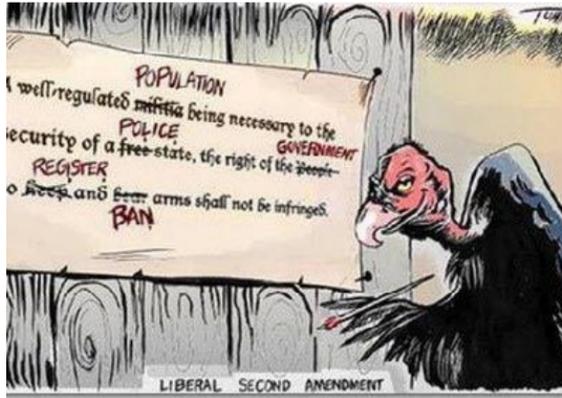
Let's be very clear here: Neither man was guilty of anything! There were no victims and no evidence that a crime had ever occurred. Today, a jury consisting of six Liberty County citizens nullified the charges against Sheriff Finch and told the State officials who brought this case to trial that they were having none of their shenanigans. Sheriff Finch was reinstated as Sheriff just 15 minutes later.

The Sheriff nullified the arrest of an innocent man and the jury nullified the arrest of another innocent man. Liberty won this Halloween day in Liberty County and a tremendous example was laid before us all; do what's right, keep your word, and have the courage to stand for the little guy. As Sheriff Finch testified in court before a badgering prosecutor who demeaned and assailed Sheriff Finch's dedication to his oath and the Constitution, Sheriff Finch calmly and firmly told the prosecutor and the court, "The Constitution has to count for something."

Florida's Stand Your Ground Legislation Hearing

The right of law abiding citizens to defend vs right of criminal attackers to attack without fear

By APN Staff, November 8, 2013



Thursday November 7, 2013, the Florida House of Representatives held a committee hearing to debate 2 bills. One was HB 89 which was to improve the statute that could allow persons firing warning shots not to be charged under Florida's 10-20-life mandatory sentencing law. There were about 200 citizens in attendance at the committee meeting, which lasted nearly five hours.

Representative Coombe was the sponsor of the HB 89. The original legislation passed during Governor Jeb Bush's reign to discourage the use of firearms in robberies. The 10-20-life law had some unintended consequences, which Representative Coombe intended to correct by his bill. The public and Representatives almost all agreed the original law was a good one, except for the fact that many prosecutors and anti gun advocate judges used the law to prosecute persons who fired a warning shot to defend themselves from an attacker. This legislation passed out of committee with a 12 to 1 vote.

Representative Alan Williams was the sponsor of HB4003, which called for a total repeal of the "Stand Your Ground" law. Williams expressed that he felt the law permitted persons to commit murder and hide behind the statue. The Dream Defenders, NAACP, and others declared that the law allowed people to target minorities and use the law as a defense. They stated that they felt all victims of crime had an obligation to retreat except in the case of a home invasion. Most proponents in favor of eliminating the "Stand Your Ground" law believed it was related to the Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman trial in Sanford, Florida, that received national publicity. Even though "Stand Your Ground" was never part of the Trayvon Martin case, the gun control advocates kept implying that George Zimmerman hunted down and murdered Trayvon Martin in cold blood. Court records show that the "Stand Your Ground" defense was not used in this trial, though the law had been in place for several years.

Those in favor of HB4003 repeatedly talked of their 30 night and 31 day occupation of the area outside of Governor's Scott's office, protesting the acquittal of George Zimmerman, as an example of how committed they are to repealing the "Stand Your Ground" legislation. The cost to Florida taxpayers was over \$500,000 for them to be allowed to occupy the capital for that time.

Numerous people from the public spoke against repeal of "Stand Your Ground". One person spoke of the difficulty for a family to retreat in the face of life threatening situations. A Tallahassee female resident related her experience of a person attempting to run her down in the mall parking lot as she walked to her car. The assailant then got out of his car and was coming after her when he was deterred by the appearance of some other people.

Throughout the lengthy meeting citizens from both sides of HB4003 alternately spoke. The Tallahassee head of the NAACP spoke about how the KKK and other hate organizations were using this law to justify their murder of blacks. There was no evidence presented that there is any significant KKK organization operating in the state of Florida.

Another problem with repealing the "Stand Your Ground" law is that it would take away the "Castle Doctrine", which gives everyone the right to use deadly force to protect themselves if someone breaks into their occupied home or car. HB4003 sponsor, Williams, agreed that this was a significant overlooked issue, and implied that it could be fixed at a later time.

Committee Chairman, Representative and attorney Matt Gaetz, presented a powerful closing position in support of the existing "Stand Your Ground" law. In his closing he cited numerous cases by name with details, demonstrating ways in which "Stand Your Ground" has been appropriately used, as well as cases in which that defense was thrown out of court because it was not valid in a particular situation. For example, a person broke into a home and was fleeing, being pursued by the occupant using deadly force. "Stand Your Ground" defense was appropriately disallowed by the court.

Another representative cited a problem with elimination of the "Stand Your Ground" law, pointing out that if the law were removed, the courts would have to revert back to common law statutes. Traditionally common law statutes are quite nebulous and courts much prefer specific statutes for clarification. He felt this would be a step backwards in protecting the rights of law abiding citizens. It was also pointed out that many other states have similar "Stand Your Ground" laws on the books.

The Florida legislators all complimented Representative Williams and the Dream Defenders for having the courage to speak out against the law. The legislators voted 11-2 *not* to move the bill out of committee. Representative Williams vowed to keep trying to find a way to repeal "Stand Your Ground". The rejection of the bill makes the repeal of the law dead for the upcoming legislative session.

Common Core

Catholic Church Perspective



Gerard V. Bradley, Professor of Law
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October 16, 2013

Your Excellency:

We are Catholic scholars who have taught for years in America's colleges and universities. Most of us have done so for decades. A few of us have completed our time in the classroom; we are professors "emeriti." We have all tried throughout our careers to put our intellectual gifts at the service of Christ and His Church. Most of us are parents, too, who have seen to our children's education, much of it in Catholic schools. We are all personally and professionally devoted to Catholic education in America.

For these reasons we take the extraordinary stem of addressing each of America's Catholic bishops about the "Common Core" national reform of K-12 schooling. Over one hundred dioceses and archdioceses have decided since 2010 to implement the Common Core. We believe that, notwithstanding the good intentions of those who made these decisions, Common Core was approved too hastily and with inadequate consideration of how it would change the character and curriculum of our nation's Catholic schools. We believe that implementing Common Core would be a grave disservice to Catholic education in America.

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In fact, we are convinced that Common Core is so deeply flawed that it should not be adopted by Catholic schools which have yet to approve it, and that those schools which have already endorsed it should seek an orderly withdrawal now.

Why – upon what evidence and reasoning – do we take such a decisive stand against a reform that so many Catholic educators have endorsed, or at least have acquiesced in? In this brief letter we can only summarize our evidence and sketch our reasoning. We stand ready, however, to develop these brief points as you wish. We also invite you to view the video recording of a comprehensive conference critically examining Common Core, held at the University of Notre Dame on September 9, 2013. (For a copy of the video, please contact Professor Gerard Bradley at the address above.)

News reports each day show that a lively national debate about Common Core is upon us. The early rush to adopt Common Core has been displaced by sober second looks, and widespread regrets. Several states have decided to “pause” implementation. Others have opted out of the testing consortia associated with Common Core. Prominent educators and political leaders have declared their opposition. The national momentum behind Common Core has, quite simply, stopped. A wave of reform which recently was thought to be inevitable now isn’t. Parents of K- 12 children are leading today’s resistance to the Common Core. A great number of these parents are Catholics whose children attend Catholic schools.

Much of today’s vigorous debate focuses upon particular standards in English and math. Supporters say that Common Core will “raise academic standards.” But we find persuasive the critiques of educational experts (such as James Milgram, professor emeritus of mathematics at Stanford University, and Sandra Stotsky, professor emerita of education at the University of Arkansas) who have studied Common Core, and who judge it to be a step backwards. We endorse their judgment that this “reform” is really a radical shift in emphasis, goals, and expectations for K-12 education, with the result that Common Core-educated children will not be prepared to do authentic college work. Even supporters of Common Core admit that it is geared to prepare children only for community-college-level studies.

No doubt many of America’s Catholic children will study in community colleges. Some will not attend college at all. This is not by itself lamentable; it all depends upon the personal vocations of those children, and what they need to learn and do in order to carry out the unique set of good works entrusted to them by Jesus. But none of that means that our Catholic grade schools and high schools should give up on maximizing the intellectual potential of every student. And every student deserves to be prepared for a life of the imagination, of the spirit, and of a deep appreciation for beauty, goodness, truth, and faith.

The judgments of Stotsky and Milgram (among many others) are supported by a host of particulars. These particulars include when algebra is to be taught, whether advanced mathematics coursework should be taught in high school, the misalignment of writing and reading standards, and whether cursive writing is to be taught. We do not write to you, however, to start an argument about particulars. At least, that is a discussion for another occasion and venue. We write to you instead because of what the particular deficiencies of Common Core reveal about the philosophy and the basic aims of the reform. We write to you because we think that this philosophy and these aims will undermine Catholic education, and dramatically diminish our children’s horizons.

Promoters of Common Core say that it is designed to make America’s children “college and career ready.” We instead judge Common Core to be a recipe for standardized workforce preparation. Common Core shortchanges the central goals of all sound education and surely those of Catholic education: to grow in the virtues necessary to know, love, and serve the Lord, to mature into a responsible, flourishing adult, and to contribute as a citizen to the process of responsible democratic self-government. Common Core adopts a bottom-line, pragmatic approach to education. The heart of its philosophy is, as far as we can see, that it is a waste of resources to “over-educate” people. The basic goal of K-12 schools is to provide everyone with a modest skill set; after that, people can specialize in college – if they end up there. Truck-drivers do not need to know Huck Finn. Physicians have no use for the humanities. Only those destined to major in literature need to worry about Ulysses.

Perhaps a truck-driver needs no acquaintance with Paradise Lost to do his or her day’s work. But everyone is better off knowing Shakespeare and Euclidean geometry, and everyone is capable of it. Everyone bears the responsibility

of growing in wisdom and grace and in deliberating with fellow-citizens about how we should all live together. A sound education helps each of us to do so.

The sad facts about Common Core are most visible in its reduction in the study of classic, narrative fiction in favor of “informational texts.” This is a dramatic change. It is contrary to tradition and academic studies on reading and human formation. Proponents of Common Core do not disguise their intention to transform “literacy” into a “critical” skill set, at the expense of sustained and heartfelt encounters with great works of literature.

Professor Stotsky was the chief architect of the universally-praised Massachusetts English language arts standards, which contributed greatly to that state’s educational success. She describes Common Core as an incubator of “empty skill sets . . . [that] weaken the basis of literary and cultural knowledge needed for authentic college coursework.” Rather than explore the creativity of man, the great lessons of life, tragedy, love, good and evil, the rich textures of history that underlie great works of fiction, and the tales of self-sacrifice and mercy in the works of the great writers that have shaped our cultural literacy over the centuries, Common Core reduces reading to a servile activity.

Professor Anthony Esolen, now at Providence College, has taught literature and poetry to college students for two decades. He provided testimony to a South Carolina legislative committee on the Common Core, lamenting its “cavalier contempt for great works of human art and thought, in literary form.” He further declared: “We are not programming machines. We are teaching children. We are not producing functionaries, factory-like. We are to be forming the minds and hearts of men and women.” Thus far Common Core standards have been published for mathematics and English language arts. Related science standards have been recently released by Achieve, Inc. History standards have also been prepared by another organization. No diocese (for that matter, no state) is bound to implement these standards just by dint of having signed onto Common Core’s English and math standards. We nonetheless believe that the same financial inducements, political pressure, and misguided reforming zeal that rushed those standards towards acceptance will conspire to make acceptance of the history and science standards equally speedy – and unreflective and unfortunate.

These new standards will very likely lower expectations for students, just as the Common Core math and English standards have done. More important, however, is the likelihood that they will promote the prevailing philosophical orthodoxies in those disciplines. In science, the new standards are likely to take for granted, and inculcate students into a materialist metaphysics that is incompatible with, the spiritual realities –soul, conceptual thought, values, free choice, God– which Catholic faith presupposes.

We fear, too, that the history standards will promote the easy moral relativism, tinged with a pervasive anti-religious bias, that is commonplace in collegiate history departments today.

Common Core is innocent of America’s Catholic schools’ rich tradition of helping to form children’s hearts and minds. In that tradition, education brings children to the Word of God. It provides students with a sound foundation of knowledge and sharpens their faculties of reason. It nurtures the child’s natural openness to truth and beauty, his moral goodness, and his longing for the infinite and happiness. It equips students to understand the laws of nature and to recognize the face of God in their fellow man.

Education in this tradition forms men and women capable of discerning and pursuing their path in life and who stand ready to defend truth, their church, their families, and their country. The history of Catholic education is rich in tradition and excellence. It embraces the academic inheritance of St. Anselm, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Blessed John Henry Newman. In contrast to such academic rigor, the Common Core standards lack an empirical evidentiary basis and have not been field-tested anywhere. Sadly, over one hundred Catholic dioceses have set aside our teaching tradition in favor of these secular standards.

America’s bishops have compiled a remarkable record of success directing Catholic education in America, perhaps most notably St. John Neumann and the Plenary Councils of Baltimore. Parents embrace that tradition and long for adherence to it – indeed, for its renaissance. That longing reflects itself in the growing Catholic home school and classical-education movements and, now, in the burgeoning desire among Catholic parents for their dioceses to reject the Common Core.

Because we believe that this moment in history again calls for the intercession of each bishop, we have been made bold to impose upon your time with our judgments of Common Core.

Government Workers Absent More Than Others



Government workers at all levels are significantly more likely to be absent from their jobs for personal reasons or illness than private-sector workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Each month the Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey compiles data from 60,000 households, including information on time spent on and off the job. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses this data to publish employment statistics.

The survey asks questions in reference to the week that includes the 12th day of the month.

The BLS states: “When an employed wage and salary worker who usually works 35 hours per week is reported as having worked fewer than 35 hours during the survey reference week (including those with jobs who worked zero hours), a question is asked as to why he or she worked fewer than 35 hours.

“Workers whose reasons for missing work include their own illness or other personal reasons (such as family responsibilities or transportation problems) are counted as having had an absence.”

Employees who worked fewer than 35 hours because of vacation, holiday, labor-management dispute, or bad weather that results in an employer temporarily curtailing business activities are not counted as having an absence.

In 2012, 4.1 percent of federal government employees reported an absence from work in the typical reference week, as did 4.4 percent of state workers and 3.7 percent of local government employees.

For government workers at all levels, the average was 4 percent, compared to just 2.9 percent for private-sector employees. So a government worker was 38 percent more likely to be absent from work than a private-sector worker.

Among all the private-sector occupations or industries listed by the BLS, only two had an absence rate of 4 percent or more —“Healthcare support occupations” (4.6 percent), and “Community and social service occupations” (4 percent).

Date Nut Loaf Cake

From an old family recipe...My mother sent this cake to her brothers while they were in the Army during WWII and the Korean Conflict. They and their platoons truly appreciated it.

- 1 c. self-rising flour
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 16 oz. pitted chopped dates
- 1 qt. hulled pecans (Do not chop)
- 3 eggs
- 1 T. vanilla
- 6 oz. candied ch. Cherries (optional)



Mix flour, eggs, sugar, flavoring, dates, nuts, & cherries. This is hard to mix so use a wooden spoon. Pour into a loaf pan which has been lined with a heavy brown bag. Cook one hour at 350 degrees. This cake is good for mailing as it keeps very well.

Taylor County Commission Meeting
November 19, 2013, Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
November 26, 2013, Workshop, 5:30 PM
Perry City Council Meeting
November 12, 2013, 5:30 PM
November 26, 2013, 5:30 PM
Taylor County School Board
November 19, 2013, 6:00 PM