By Senators Brewbaker, Scofield, McGill, Allen, Taylor, Ward, Williams, Fielding, and Holtzclaw

RFD:

First Read: 15-MAR-12
ENCOURAGING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO RETAIN
CONTROL OVER ALABAMA ACADEMIC STANDARDS, CURRICULUM,
INSTRUCTION, AND TESTING.

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education adopted the
Common Core State Standards Initiative on November 18, 2010;
and

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

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

WHEREAS, the initiative states that the federal
government was not involved in the development of the
standards, that individual states choose whether or not to
adopt all or any one of the standards, and that Alabama can
withdraw from the initiative at any time; and
WHEREAS, the United States Constitution wisely leaves the setting of academic standards, curriculum, and instruction to the states; and

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

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

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

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

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