

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 524

To prohibit the Federal Government from mandating, incentivizing, or coercing States to adopt the Common Core State Standards or any other specific academic standards, instructional content, curricula, assessments, or programs of instruction.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COOK, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. HUDSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To prohibit the Federal Government from mandating, incentivizing, or coercing States to adopt the Common Core State Standards or any other specific academic standards, instructional content, curricula, assessments, or programs of instruction.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Local Control of Edu-
3 cation Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. GENERAL ESEA PROHIBITION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9527 of the Elementary
6 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7907)
7 is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(e) PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAN-
9 DATING COMMON STANDARDS, PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCC-
10 TION, CURRICULA, ASSESSMENTS, OR ACADEMIC STAND-
11 ARDS.—An officer or employee of the Federal Government
12 shall not directly or indirectly, through grants, contracts,
13 or other cooperative agreements under this Act (including
14 waivers under section 9401)—

15 “(1) mandate, direct, or control a State, local
16 educational agency, or school’s specific instructional
17 content or any specific academic standard, assess-
18 ment, curriculum, or program of instruction, includ-
19 ing through any requirement, direction, condition, or
20 mandate to adopt—

21 “(A) the Common Core State Standards
22 developed under the Common Core State Stand-
23 ards Initiative, any other academic standards
24 common to a number of States, or any specific
25 statewide or nationally recognized content
26 standards; or

1 “(B) any assessment, instructional content,
2 or curriculum aligned to, or based on, specific
3 academic standards, including any of the stand-
4 ards described in subparagraph (A);

5 “(2) incentivize a State, local educational agen-
6 cy, or school to adopt any specific instructional con-
7 tent, academic standard, assessment, curriculum,
8 commonality of standards or assessments, or pro-
9 gram of instruction described in paragraph (1),
10 which shall include providing any priority, pref-
11 erence, or special consideration during the applica-
12 tion process based on any specific content, standard,
13 assessment, curriculum, commonality, or program;
14 or

15 “(3) make financial support available in a man-
16 ner that is conditioned upon a State, local edu-
17 cational agency, or school’s adoption of any specific
18 instructional content, academic standard, assess-
19 ment, curriculum, commonality of standards or as-
20 sessments, or program of instruction described in
21 paragraph (1), even if such requirements are speci-
22 fied in section 14006 or 14007 of the American Re-
23 covery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law
24 111–5; 123 Stat. 281) or any other Act.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9527(a) of
 2 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 3 U.S.C. 7907(a)) is amended by striking “curriculum, pro-
 4 gram of instruction, or”.

5 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING ADOPTION OF COM-**
 6 **MON STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO WAIV-**
 7 **ERS.**

8 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 9401 of the Elementary
 9 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7861)
 10 is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(h) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING CERTAIN STAND-
 12 ARDS FOR WAIVERS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not re-
 14 quire that a State, local educational agency, Indian
 15 tribe, or school adopt, as a prerequisite or condition
 16 for any waiver under this section, any specific in-
 17 structional content, academic standard, assessment,
 18 curriculum, or program of instruction, including—

19 “(A) the Common Core State Standards
 20 developed under the Common Core State Stand-
 21 ards Initiative, any other academic standards
 22 common to a number of States, or any specific
 23 statewide or nationally recognized content
 24 standards; or

1 “(B) any assessment, instructional content,
2 or curriculum aligned to, or based on, any spe-
3 cific academic standards, including any of the
4 standards described in subparagraph (A).

5 “(2) EFFECT ON PREVIOUSLY ISSUED WAIV-
6 ERS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any requirement de-
8 scribed in paragraph (1) that was required for
9 a waiver provided to a State, local educational
10 agency, Indian tribe, or school under this sec-
11 tion before the date of enactment of the Local
12 Control of Education Act shall be void and have
13 no force of law.

14 “(B) PROHIBITED ACTIONS.—The Sec-
15 retary shall not—

16 “(i) enforce any requirement that is
17 void pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

18 “(ii) require the State, local edu-
19 cational agency, Indian tribe, or school to
20 reapply for a waiver, or to agree to any
21 other conditions to replace any require-
22 ments that is void pursuant to subpara-
23 graph (A), until the end of the period of
24 time specified under the waiver.

1 “(C) NO EFFECT ON OTHER PROVI-
 2 SIONS.—Any other provisions or requirements
 3 of a waiver provided under this section before
 4 the date of enactment of the Local Control of
 5 Education Act that are not affected by subpara-
 6 graph (A) shall remain in effect for the period
 7 of time specified under the waiver.”.

8 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION IN RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING.**

9 Title XIV of Division A of the American Recovery
 10 and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5) is
 11 amended by inserting after section 14007 the following:

12 **“SEC. 14007A. PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING OR PREFER-**
 13 **RING COMMON STANDARDS.**

14 “The prohibitions of section 9527(e) of the Elemen-
 15 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 shall apply to
 16 each grant awarded under section 14006 or 14007 in the
 17 same manner as such prohibitions apply to a grant award-
 18 ed under such Act.”.

○