

**Testimony from Jock Hayes, Operations Manager at East Bay Newspapers  
In opposition to House Bill 7095  
February 26, 2014**

To: State of Rhode Island General Assembly, House Committee on Health, Education & Welfare

Good afternoon Mister/Madam Chairman,

I want to thank you for the time today. My name is Jock Hayes, I am a native of Bristol, Rhode Island where my wife and I currently live and are raising our daughter. For the past 25 years I have been part owner and operator of a small business based in Bristol. I am a proud Rhode Islander!

I am here today to speak in support of Rhode Island's adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

I have spent a fair amount of my free time over the past several years working to understand the dynamics, policies and politics of public education in my community, state and beyond. The thing that I have come to realize over that time is — the one thing we all have in common is — that we all want what is best for our children; obvious point — I know.

What that means to me as a parent is a meaningful education for my daughter, with real opportunity. What that means for me as a businessman is that the children of our community have the opportunity to prepare for college and career.

Whether you live in Bristol, Rhode Island, Bristol, Vermont or Bristol, Tennessee, the standard by which we judge college and career readiness must be consistent. This consistency of measure is a fundamental component of any successful venture.

The impacts of the outcomes from public education are everywhere. I strongly believe that Rhode Island's greatest economic development opportunity right now is a high performing public education system.

I believe the adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards supports that pursuit. Thank you.