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OPINION COMMITTEE

THE SENATE OF TEXAS
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

FILE # ML-47485-13
I.D. # 47485

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December 20, 2013

RQ-1175-GA

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Attention: Jason Boatright, Chairman, Opinion Committee

Re: Request for an Attorney General Opinion to determine whether Texas school districts violate the law by using Common Core to teach state standards.

Dear General Abbott:

During the 83rd Regular Session I sponsored a bill, HB 462 by Representative Huberty, regarding the prohibition of the Common Core State Standards Initiative in Texas. It was the intent of the Legislature when we passed the bill to keep Common Core out of Texas school districts.

HB 462, which is now law, prohibits the State Board of Education from adopting national curriculum standards developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative to comply with a duty imposed under statutory provisions relating to courses of study in the public school curriculum and student advancement. It also prohibits a school district from using common core state standards to comply with the requirement to provide instruction in the essential knowledge and skills at appropriate grade levels, and it prohibits a school district or open-enrollment charter school from being required to offer any aspect of a common core state standards curriculum. Finally, the law prohibits the Texas Education Agency from adopting or developing a statewide standardized test based on common core state standards.

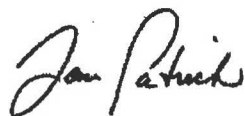
However, certain school districts within Texas are currently using Common Core to teach the Texas state standards.

Accordingly, I submit to your office the following question in request of an Attorney General Opinion:

Does a school district using Common Core in any way to teach state standards violate the law?

Thank you for your assistance on this matter and please feel free to contact my office for further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan Patrick".