



Chamber of Commerce



Association of Alabama



birminghambusinessalliance
THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY



MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 18, 2015

To Members of the Alabama Legislature:

For the third year in a row, legislation has been introduced that would repeal the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards. Senate Bill 101 introduced by Sen. Rusty Glover is similar to previous bills that would undermine the authority of the elected State Board of Education and force the State Department of Education to revert to outdated and insufficient standards. The business community represented by the undersigned organizations remains steadfast in its support for the Alabama Standards.

The current standards have been fully implemented over the past two years and represent rigorous benchmarks that ensure students are reaching expectations at each grade level to be ready for post-secondary education or to enter the workforce upon graduation. Our organizations encourage you to reject any legislative proposal that harms Alabama's Standards or usurps the authority of the Alabama State Board of Education.

The Alabama Standards are the cornerstone of the state's Plan 2020 which is already accomplishing the goals of increased graduation rates, reduced college remediation and a rise in student achievement. The Alabama Standards allow students to move from state to state, or region to region without fear of falling behind or repeating material are critical to our economy and our workforce. National organizations representing education, business and the military have also expressed their support. These include the Department of Defense Education Activity, the Military Child Education Coalition, the National Parent Teacher Association, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

As we have said, repealing the Alabama Standards would damage our schools, our teachers and our students, and it would certainly damage our economic development efforts in attracting companies who value an educated workforce. We urge the Legislature to resist any attempt to undermine the State Board of Education and ask that you protect the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards as currently implemented.

Sincerely,

William Canary
President & CEO
Business Council
Of Alabama

Chip Cherry
President & CEO
Huntsville/Madison
Chamber
of Commerce

Randy George
President & CEO
Montgomery
Chamber of
Commerce

Brian Hilson
President & CEO
Birmingham
Business
Alliance

William B. Sisson
President & CEO
Mobile Area Chamber
of Commerce

Jeremy Arthur
President & CEO
Chamber of
Commerce
Assoc of Ala