



birminghambusinessalliance
THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY



Dear Senator:

We write to you today to oppose SB 119, which would repeal the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards. Our organizations would encourage you to reject any legislative proposal that harms Alabama's standards or usurps the authority of the Alabama State Board of Education.

The voices of business and industry for the State of Alabama have united in support of rigorous education standards that will ensure that our students are college and career ready when they graduate from high school. The Alabama standards are the cornerstone of the state's Plan 2020 to increase graduation rates, reduce college remediation and raise student achievement.

We believe that education standards that 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. 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 and the National Parent Teacher Association.

Repealing these standards would damage our schools, our teachers and our students that are already well into implementation of our standards, and it would certainly damage our economic development efforts in attracting companies who value an educated workforce. Our children need to be among the best educated in the world to compete for admission into the best colleges and to secure good-paying jobs. The elimination or dumbing down of standards is a disservice to them.

We feel strongly that this is a matter best left to the Alabama State Board of Education, a body created and empowered by Alabama's constitution to handle these issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue impacting Alabama and for any support you will provide to eliminating this threat to Alabama's standards.