

TESTIMONY TO THE EDUCATION REFORM COMMISSION
10/3/12 Gioia Shebar: Coordinator, Property taxnightmare.org

Education is at the sweet spot where power, politics, and corporate money meet-to the satisfaction of none of the stakeholders, children, parents, teachers or property taxpayers.

Taxnightmare.org. is state-wide, non-partisan and pro bono. We work for property tax reform. Through the years of lobbying and studying the issues we found that property taxes were inextricably bound to the uses to which our money is put-especially in funding education.

It isn't that property taxpayers don't support education but because the state doesn't pay its share of the costs and has continued (despite a court order) NOT to fund education adequately -therefore increasing the property tax share which is insupportable-they resent this tax more than any other.

To add insult to injury state unfunded mandates fall heavily on education and are mostly politically motivated and not educationally sound.

Useless but ubiquitous standardized tests –one form of unfunded mandate-are the most offensive type of monetization and standardization of our children. I am in constant communication with large numbers of beleaguered property taxpayers throughout the state and I assure this panel that they agree on this point.

We are in an alliance with other property tax groups, fiscal policy organizations, and parent's organizations-a united force to be reckoned with.

I advise this panel to take up the state's habit of underfunding schools and shifting the costs to homeowners and renters via a tax which has no income limits or relief provisions. This sets beleaguered taxpayers against their schools-one pernicious outcome of the funding mess.

Moreover the unfunded mandates, the most exaggerated form of which are standardized tests which solely benefit corporate coffers (vide Murdoch's entrance into education-business) must cease.

In short : Children, parents, teachers, and property taxpayers are at the mercy of the hierarchical power, cynical politics, and corporate greed currently roiling education waters.

We see this commission's job as nothing less than undoing the menace to our society caused by this dangerous nexus.

Thanks you.

gioia shebar

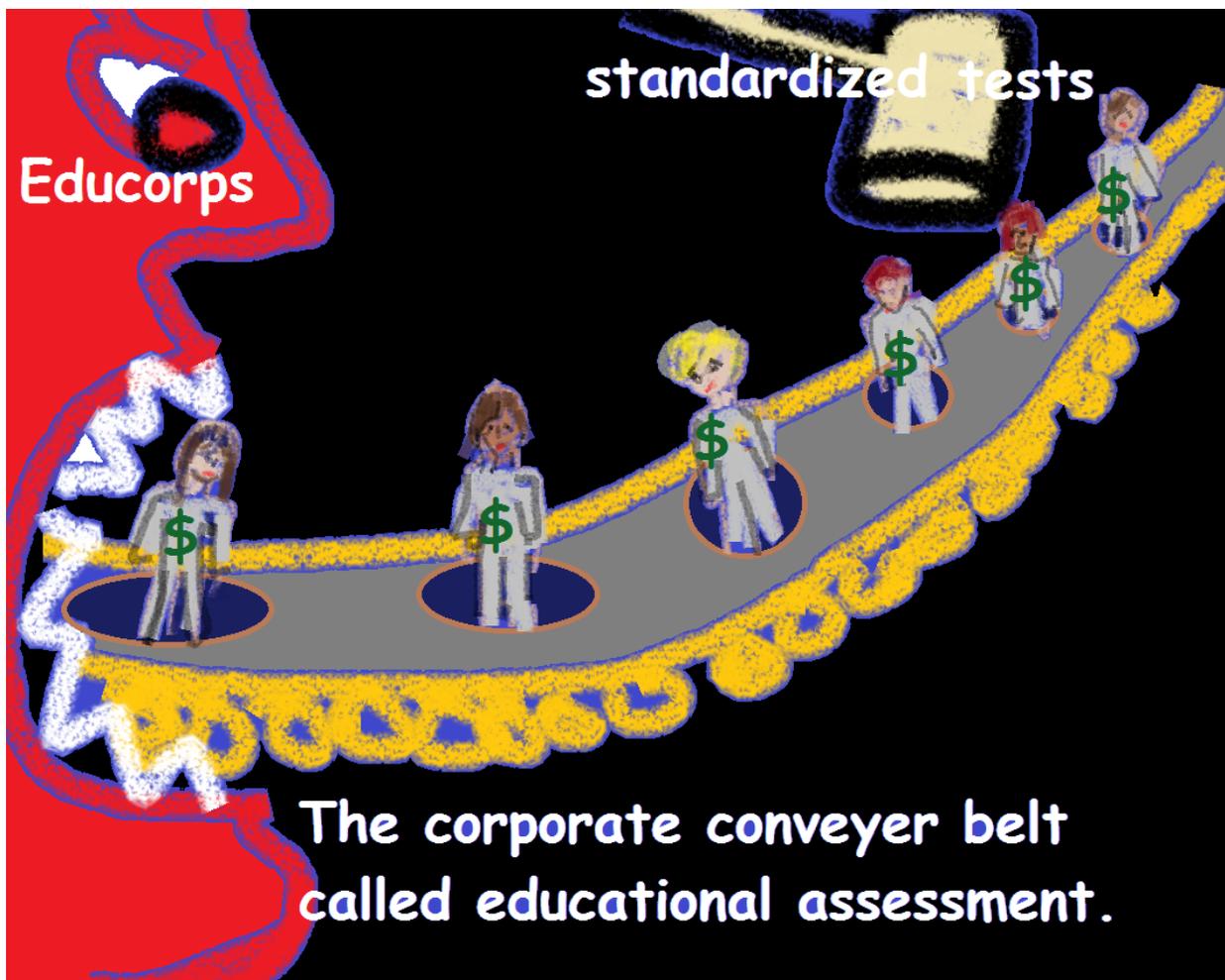
www.TAXNIGHTMARE.ORG

845-256-0082

845-256-1133 FAX

shebar4@aol.com

info@taxnightmare.org



- 1) Pound the children down so they all fit into the same sized little holes.
- 2) Decide their worth by how well they fit into the little holes.
- 3) Hand our hard earned school property tax money over to **BIG EDUCORPS** for this billion dollar scam that is messing with our children's heads.

HOW SICK IS THAT??!!

Cheap
is
Cheap!



Education
isn't cheap.

It should
be our #1
priority.

The property
tax can't
bear the
burden placed
upon it.

The state has to step up and pay up. It has a constitutional obligation to fund an equal education for each child in our state. It has broader, fairer sources of income than property taxes.