



# A change of heart or charging toward the White House?

By Bob Kellogg  
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**A political analyst is offering his assessment of why Louisiana's governor has turned against Common Core.**

Gov. Bobby Jindal filed a lawsuit against the Obama administration, accusing the U.S. Department of Education of illegally coercing states into adopting the standards.

His opponents accuse him of doing so because of his possible presidential ambitions. But Neal McCluskey of the Cato Institute says the governor deserves the benefit of the doubt.

"He said he was helping his son with his math homework and decided that Common Core is a bad way to go," McCluskey recalls.

The lawsuit argues that waivers for states were coerced and illegal, an argument that McCluskey predicts has a "decent chance" of winning in court.

States such as Louisiana asked for and got waivers from certain educational requirements, and Jindal's lawsuit claims that was designed to coerce states to use Common Core or risk losing billions of dollars on federal education funding, *USA Today* reported.

"Louisiana now finds itself trapped in a federal scheme to nationalize curriculum," the lawsuit alleges.

The governor can't pull out of Common Core and avoid a lawsuit because state legislators have prevented him from doing so.

Despite the governor's change of heart, many of the state's public officials remain Core backers.