

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 13, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write today to condemn the actions of your administration to direct the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to classify the actions of concerned parents at school board meetings as "the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes."¹ Your weaponization of the nation's chief federal law enforcement agency against parents concerned over the nature of their children's public education is a clear abuse of federal authority meant to intimidate and silence parents.

Over the past year, schools have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, school board meetings this year have taken on new importance, as parents express their concerns about continued virtual learning, distress about their children's' learning environment and curricula, and their opposition to the teaching of critical race theory. In response, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) sent your administration a letter where they labeled these discussions at school board meeting consisting of parents who were worried about their children's education as "domestic terrorism".

As you may know, the FBI currently defines domestic terrorism as "violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature."² The NSBA letter cited only a handful of examples of alleged "extremism" nationwide. However, most examples appear to fall far short of the U.S. government's definition of domestic terrorism. While we agree that there must be safeguards in place to protect public schools and education leaders as they do their jobs, the examples provided by the NSBA often amounted to mostly shouting and not specific acts of violence against individual board members.

Furthermore, the NSBA had the audacity to claim that "critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject"³. This claim is not only false but harmful to the education of our children. The truth is that there has been a major push for school districts around the country to integrate CRT into student's curricula. Critical Race Theory is a form of Marxist critical theory which views all human activity through the prism of

¹ <https://nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-letter-to-president-biden-concerning-threats-to-public-schools-and-school-board-members-92921.pdf>

² <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>

³ <https://nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-letter-to-president-biden-concerning-threats-to-public-schools-and-school-board-members-92921.pdf>

race and teaches that race is the defining feature of our society. It holds that the United States is a nation founded on white supremacy, and divides everyone into “oppressor” or “oppressed” based on immutable characteristic such as race. This ideological teaching can include a focus on “implicit bias,” “anti-racism,” and “other racial justice trainings”.

We support the fact that the Justice Department is “steadfast in its commitment to protect all people in the United States from violence, threats of violence, and other forms of intimidation and harassment.”⁴We also agree with the statement that “[w]hile spirited debate about policy matters is protected under our Constitution, that protection does not extend to threats of violence or efforts to intimidate individuals based on their views.”⁵ However, we are deeply concerned that this Administration has been silent to the harassment, intimidation and even violence associated with Antifa. Over the past year, Antifa has repeatedly threatened America’s institutions, destroyed businesses, and led violent riots across the United States. The blatant double standard is appalling.

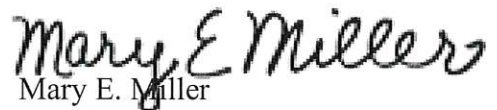
Americans have a right to speak out and organize in favor or against public policies without fear of being targeted by the federal government. We are very concerned about your administrations attempt to weaponize the power of the federal government to go after parents, who are simply expressing their First Amendment rights at local school boards meetings. This is a clear sign that freedom and self-government are under attack at the most fundamental level. We strongly oppose any targeted political persecution by the federal government and urge you to halt efforts to control the First Amendment rights of millions of concerned parents.

Parents who want to raise their children in a colorblind society and attend schools which teach reading, writing, and arithmetic rather than race essentialism, racial grievance, and a hierarchy of victimhood should not be viewed as potential enemies of the state by your administration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

⁴ <https://www.justice.gov/ag/page/file/1438986/download>

⁵ Ibid

Bob Good
Member of Congress

Matt Rosendale
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud
Member of Congress

Ronny Jackson
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Brian Mast
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Merrick Garland, United States Attorney General