

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Sandra Bruce
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Education
550 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

The Honorable Michael Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Inspectors General Bruce and Horowitz:

We write with regard to the latest revelation that the nation's largest teachers union, the National Education Association (NEA), on October 8, 2021, sent a letter to social media companies requesting that they remove "propaganda" and "disinformation" posted online by parents who were protesting school policies regarding COVID-19 and Critical Race Theory.

There is reason to suspect the NEA worked with Biden Administration officials to write this letter after email evidence revealed that the Secretary of the U.S. Department Education colluded with the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to produce a letter sent to President Biden few days earlier, on September 29, 2021. Parents Defending Education, a grassroots organization advocating for non-political education and the prevention of indoctrination in the classroom, obtained NSBA internal emails through the Freedom of Information Act. These documents show that last September, the NSBA coordinated directly with Secretary Cardona in writing a letter that characterized parents' concerns about COVID-19 regulations, school curriculum, and other school policies to "domestic terrorism." The NSBA also requested that the Administration use federal law enforcement agencies to address "threats" and "acts of intimidation" by parents against school staff.

The issue first garnered national attention when Attorney General Merrick Garland issued a memo on October 4, 2021, directing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to go after these parents. After receiving significant pushback from many state school boards, the NSBA issued a public apology on October 22, 2021. At least 19 states have since withdrawn their membership from this organization after the release of the troubling statements.

While we remain concerned that parents whom are peacefully protesting continue to be threatened by the failure of the Attorney General to rescind his memo, we are equally disturbed that the NSBA and NEA used taxpayer dollars –collected as dues from member schools– to carry out politically motivated attacks against concerned parents at the direction of the Biden Administration. These actions must be investigated as threatening and intimidating concerned parents should never be tolerated. Parents deserve to know the complete truth on this matter. Just because someone disagrees with you does not give you the right to silence them. These fundamental and constitutional freedoms must be upheld by every American and every organization, even if their point of view does not align. Therefore, we request the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General and the Department of Education Office of

Inspector General to investigate the coordinated actions between the Biden Administration, NSBA, and NEA.

We appreciate your efforts to hold our government officials accountable to the American people, especially when it comes to ensuring our government remains transparent with its decisions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Roger F. Wicker
U.S. Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis
U.S. Senator



Joni K. Ernst
U.S. Senator



John Barrasso
U.S. Senator



Mike Braun
U.S. Senator



James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senator



Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Lankford". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a prominent initial "J".

James Lankford
U.S. Senator