

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 4, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Austin,

On September 16th of this year, we wrote to your expressing our deep concern regarding the Department of Defense Education Activity's (DoDEA) Chief of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CDEI), Kelisa Wing's history of racially divisive statements. Shortly after our letter, the Department announced a 30-day review of the matter.

More than 30 days have passed since the Department announced the review of Kelisa Wing. However, the Department has made no public announcement, nor communicated with Congress or the signers of the September 16 letter regarding the findings of the review. Further reporting on Ms. Wing has revealed that during her time as a DoDEA employee, she has "...also used agency-held events to promote her books and personal webpages."¹ Furthermore, in the intervening period, additional reporting has revealed that DoDEA libraries contain books with explicit, pornographic materials made available to the children of our nation's servicemembers.² Publication dates of these books in question reveal that they were added to DoDEA libraries within the last two years, not only under your leadership as Secretary of Defense, but also while Kelisa Wing has served as DoDEA's CDEI.

The mission of DoDEA is to provide high quality education to the children of America's men and women in uniform, not indoctrinate those children with the radical ideologies of those who seek to divide us by race or ethnicity, nor to promote sexually explicit material for child audiences. Under this administration, your leadership at the Department, and the guidance of Ms. Wing, DoDEA has abandoned that mission in pursuit of the social engineering agenda of the "woke" left.

Considering the deeply troubling statements made by Ms. Wing, we reiterate the following questions:

¹ Schemmel, Alec. "Watchdog: Equity and inclusion head 'blurring the lines' between fed work and private work." The National Desk. October 10, 2022. <https://thenationaldesk.com/news/americas-news-now/dei-headhttps://thenationaldesk.com/news/americas-news-now/dei-head-kelisa-wing-blurring-the-lines-between-fed-work-and-private-work-watchdog-says-kelisa-wing-blurring-the-lines-between-fed-work-and-private-work-watchdog-says>

² Grossman, Hannah. "Pentagon's schools infested with shocking pornographic material for military kids: 'Time to send a d*ck pic'." Fox News. October 27, 2022. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/pentagon-schools-infested-shocking-pornographic-material-military-kids-time-send-pic>

- Is the ideology expressed by Ms. Wing in “What is White Privilege?” and her subsequent statements consistent with the educational curriculum of the DoDEA?
- Does DoD endorse the ideologies shared by Ms. Wing on her Twitter posts regarding racial issues?
- Was DoDEA aware of the divisive statements made by Ms. Wing prior to her appointment to the position of CDEI in December 2021?
- Has Ms. Wing’s radical ideology been integrated into the curriculum proposed by DoDEA?

In addition, considering the Department’s review of the matter related to Ms. Wing, and further reporting regarding Ms. Wing and DoDEA schools since our September letter, we request answers to the following questions:

- Has the Department completed its 30-day review of Kelisa Wing, and if so, will the Department transmit its findings to Congress, in addition to making them available to the public?
- If the Department has not completed the review, will you commit the Department to transmitting its eventual findings to Congress, in addition to making them available to the public?
- Does the Department find it acceptable for Ms. Wing to promote her own books and webpages at DoDEA events, as reported? Furthermore, is the Department aware that DoDEA libraries carry copies of books written by Ms. Wing?
- Was the Department aware that DoDEA libraries carried books with explicit, pornographic material? If so, who within DoDEA determined these books’ appropriateness for children, and will the Department provide Congress with any documentation regarding such a determination?
- If the Department was not aware of these books within DoDEA libraries, will the books in question be removed from DoDEA libraries? If not, why?

We look forward to your prompt response to the original questions from our September letter as well as responses to the additional questions arising from recent reporting on Ms. Wing and DoDEA libraries.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress