



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

May 11, 2023

Chairman Ian Serotkin
Loudoun County School Board
2100 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Chairman Serotkin,

We are deeply concerned by recent reports that staff and associates of Loudoun County School Board members and County officials orchestrated a campaign of smear attacks, harassment, and intimidation against local parents simply for exercising their First Amendment rights to petition the government about their children’s education.¹ Considering that Loudoun County schools have received significant federal resources, including \$13 million in federal funds under President Biden’s so-called COVID-19 relief package, and was at the center of a federal investigation into parents, we believe this issue is of the utmost importance.²

In December 2022, Virginia parent Mark Winn attended a Loudoun County school board meeting and publicly expressed concerns regarding the presence of radical gender ideology in schools. Reports indicate that following his speech, a social media group that includes people who appear to be staff and associates of yours, Loudoun County Commonwealth’s Attorney Buta Biberaj, County Supervisor Juli Briskman, school board member Brenda Sheridan, school board member Atoosa Reaser, school board member Erika Ogedegbe, school board candidate Anne Donohue, sheriff candidate Craig Buckley, and Chair Phyllis Randall, discussed plans to target Mr. Winn and get him fired by his employer.³ The social media group’s conversation included threatening statements like, “Lives need to be ruined beyond repair” and “Im soooo ready to show up with guns lol.”⁴

This appears to be a part of an aggressive and orchestrated campaign to infringe upon parents’ First Amendment rights through fear and intimidation — specifically, by scaring them away from ever petitioning their local or State government and advocating on behalf of their children’s wellbeing and education in the public square. We hope you would agree that engaging in this type of behavior is appalling and should not be tolerated.

This is all made even more concerning considering that — due in part to school board actions — Loudoun County was at the epicenter of the Biden Administration’s attacks on parents. President Biden’s Department of Justice (DOJ) used Loudoun County parent Scott Smith’s advocacy on behalf of his daughter – who was sexually assaulted in a girls’ bathroom by a male student in a

¹ Loudoun social media group, some allegedly tied to elected officials, threaten residents | WJLA

² https://loudoun.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=77&clip_id=6693&meta_id=195356

³ *Supra*, note 1

⁴ *Supra*, note 1

skirt that was allowed to use said bathroom due to LCPS policy – to justify their launch of an unprecedented federal investigation into parents across the country. Scott Smith spoke out about what happened, the National School Board Association equated his advocacy to “forms of domestic terrorism,” and the Biden DOJ eagerly obliged to their request.⁵

Any attempts by staff and associates of Loudoun County officials or school board members, to *further* harass, intimidate, or otherwise silence American parents must be fully investigated and those responsible must be held accountable. We call on all of those representing Loudoun County Public Schools to stand with parents and condemn these attacks, launch a full investigation into the extent to which staff and associates of Loudoun County officials and school board members were involved in targeting parents like Mr. Winn, and hold all those responsible fully accountable. Failure to do so would further erode trust in public education and send alarm bells ringing from Richmond to Washington about the abuse of parental rights and free speech with federal taxpayer dollars. We look forward to responsible action.



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⁵ <https://defendinged.org/press-releases/full-nsba-letter-to-biden-administration-and-department-of-justice-memo/>
<https://defendinged.org/press-releases/new-foia-document-asserts-nsba-knew-of-doj-memo-prior-to-publication/>