

To: House Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government

From: Kelly John Walker, M.S., et al.

Date: June 27, 2023

Dear Representative

The Interim Staff Report of the House Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, March 21, 2023, informs the public on **“the Biden Administration’s use of federal law-enforcement and counterterrorism resources against parents voicing concerns about controversial curricula and education-related policies at local school board meetings.”**

The report describes unconstitutional targeting and abuse of parents who understand it all too well, as they and their families experienced it. For these Americans, their mistreatment by their own government is a hemorrhaging wound that must be addressed by the Peoples’ House.

American families have suffered unlawful arrest—both of parents and even minor children—for exercising their First Amendment rights, and for demanding answers to questions deeply affecting their children’s education, religious freedom, as well as mental and physical health. A number of these parents were denied reasonable answers from taxpayer-supported administrators, and then **“trespassed” and arrested as a means of bypassing due accountability to citizens.** These are Stasi-level tactics that do not reflect the intent of the law, which is to safeguard the rights of citizens against just such behavior. Any request that a parent leave a school or a school board meeting simply because the administration disagrees with their First Amendment-protected speech is a transgression upon civil liberty.

Under the Ninth Amendment, parents have a Natural Right to inquire into the education, care, health and wellbeing of their children and expect answers. Case law has established that parents have *exclusive* rights over their children that supersede those of the State. This was firmly established by *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925), in which the U.S. Supreme Court held that “the fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the State to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. **The child is not the mere creature of the State;** those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”

The interim staff report reads that, “The House Committee on the Judiciary, through and with its Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, **is charged with investigating ‘violations of the civil liberties of citizens of the United States.’**” Real-life examples of such violations are widespread and involve the usurpation of parental rights by a malicious State wielding the judicial system as a coercive or punitive weapon to achieve political agendas.

The interim staff report “fulfills the **ongoing obligation to identify and report on instances of the weaponization of the federal government—here, the misuse of federal law-enforcement and counterterrorism resources against parents exercising their First Amendment rights** at school board meetings.”

The weaponization of the federal government against parents is well-documented and should serve as a basis for quashing any and all charges filed against parents so targeted by the DOJ, FBI and downstream prosecutors influenced by Merick Garland's mischaracterization of them as "domestic terrorists."

"While the documents produced to date help to better understand what transpired," reads the report, "they do not tell the whole story. **The Committee and the Select Subcommittee will continue to pursue the relevant facts to inform legislative reforms to protect American civil liberties.**"

According to congressional reports, **the DOJ made school districts paranoid by demonizing concerned parents as "domestic terrorists,"** without any substantiation. The result was the systematic "lawfare" persecution of some of the very people our government was instituted to protect: Concerned parents, grandparents, and even children. Following are just three examples of the DOJ's illegitimate targeting and prosecutorial influence against parents and families:

Jennifer Majuta: Mrs. Majuta, her husband, and their minor daughter were handcuffed, arrested, shoved into police cars, and then booked after they questioned the quarantining of their asymptomatic daughter. A Sahuarita, Arizona magistrate, in tandem with the school principal, agreed that the mother, who is a children's book author with no prior record, should be put into state prison "to make an example of her." She served the time, and her family is still dealing with the trauma from the experience.

Kelly John Walker: Mr. Walker was arrested for speaking out on behalf of a parent whose child was forced by school administration to retrieve a soiled mask from the trash and put it on his face. With no prior record, Walker was sentenced to 100 days in jail and nearly \$10,000 in "restitution," though it was acknowledged that his only actions were to sit and speak—he didn't even raise his voice.

Jon Tigges: Mr. Tigges attended a Loudoun County, Virginia School Board meeting on June 22, 2021, joining other parents to protest Critical Race Theory (CRT) and the district's transgender policies. The school board cut off public comments and after Tigges and another parent refused to leave without being heard, they were arrested. A Virginia district judge found Tigges guilty of trespassing in October 2021.

Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) commented on the charges in a statement to The Epoch Times that speaks volumes: "Unfortunately, we cannot trust Merrick Garland's DOJ to apply justice equally in America."

We therefore urge this Committee to introduce a bill providing retroactive prosecutorial amnesty to all school parents and supporters arrested for exercising their constitutional freedoms between January 1, 2020 and the present, as well as legislation protecting against future abuses. The State's overt targeting introduced a prejudice that deprived these people of due process and equal protection under the 14th Amendment.

Respectfully,

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