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January 13, 2022

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Labor
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott:

Late last year we saw this administration attack parents by dismissing their just concerns over their children's education and support efforts to label these same engaged parents as domestic terrorists. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) wrote the President asking him to invoke the PATRIOT Act, among other laws, to stop parents from speaking out against the school policies they object to.¹ The Department of Justice (DOJ) promptly put out a memorandum and press release, which sided with the NSBA against concerned parents.² Soon thereafter, the Attorney General came before Congress and tried to distance himself and the DOJ from the issue, despite having set up an FBI task force to investigate parents.³ In response to severe backlash from its own members the NSBA rescinded its letter, but the Attorney General has thus far refused to retract the memo.⁴ The NSBA letter was shocking in its own right, but now it appears that the organization wrote that letter at the behest of Secretary Cardona.

According to emails obtained through federal information requests, we see that Education Secretary Miguel Cardona solicited the letter from NSBA that labeled parents as 'domestic terrorists.'⁵ Despite an immediate request from this Committee for a briefing on this matter, the

¹ <https://defendinged.org/press-releases/full-nsba-letter-to-biden-administration-and-department-of-justice-memo/>

² <https://www.justice.gov/ag/page/file/1438986/download> and <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-addresses-violent-threats-against-school-officials-and-teachers>

³ <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/fbi-is-monitoring-threats-against-school-board-members-whistleblower-email-shows>

⁴ https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/justice_dept.tograssleyschoolboardmemo.pdf

⁵ <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/education-secretary-requested-letter-from-school-board-association-comparing-parents-to-terrorists/>

Department of Education has been silent on this despicable action.⁶ Once again, the Department of Education is ignoring legitimate oversight requests and general requests for information, and is instead hiding its agenda from the American people.

It is abundantly clear that Secretary Cardona must answer to the Education and Labor Committee and the American people. That is why I'm writing to ask that you call Secretary Cardona before this Committee to testify in person regarding his actions weaponizing federal law enforcement power against parents. No law-abiding parent should be treated like a criminal or intimidated into silence. There is no higher priority for this Committee than protecting parents' rights when it comes to their children's education. It appears Secretary Cardona is soliciting help from the education establishment to stifle parents' ability to engage with their elected officials, and we need to know what other actions he has taken to support his union and partisan allies over parents.

Sincerely,



Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



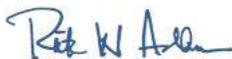
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Jim Banks
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⁶ https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/uploadedfiles/doj_ed_parent_engagement_final.pdf

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