

October 5, 2021

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001



Sent via email

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We write regarding your October 4 memorandum announcing federal involvement in local school districts nationwide.

The Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing civil rights and liberties rooted in our common humanity. We have more than 70 chapters nationwide and tens of thousands of members. FAIR's advisory board includes John McWhorter, Michael Shermer, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Steven Pinker, Bari Weiss, and others similarly dedicated to our mission. Our website, fairforall.org, can give you a fuller sense of our identity and activities.

Your October 4 memorandum was seemingly written in response to the National School Boards Association's September 29 letter to President Biden. That letter requested federal involvement in local school districts as a result of actions by public school parents. Your memorandum expresses concern about harassment and threats, directs the FBI to meet with leaders in each district in the nation, and states that the Department of Justice "will announce a series of measures designed to address the rise in criminal conduct directed toward school personnel."

FAIR strongly condemns violence, threats, and other unlawful conduct, and we are confident that state and local law enforcement will use their legal authority to address such actions. From our work in education, we know that the overwhelming majority of parents concerned about what is occurring in public schools are engaged in peaceful and lawful conduct. We hope and trust that any measures taken by the federal government will be fully authorized, appropriately tailored, and consistent with the broad civil and constitutional liberties guaranteed to citizens and residents of this nation.

Very truly yours,

The Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism