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Rep. Cody Vasut

Rep. James White

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Ted Beard, President  
Texas Association of School Boards  
12007 Research Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78759-2429

***Submitted via electronic mail.***

Re: Request for immediate termination of any affiliation with the National School Boards Association

October 28, 2021

Mr. Beard:

Over the past few weeks, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) has made comments revealing their true feelings about parental rights in the United States. In response to parents who have voiced legitimate concerns, and in some cases have shown justified anger regarding some of the inherently racist teachings in Critical Race Theory, NASB wrote a letter to President Biden equating these parents actions with “domestic terrorism and hate crimes.”<sup>1</sup> This letter, for which NASB has since admitted wrong,<sup>2</sup> spurred the state school board associations of Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee to terminate their affiliation with NSBA.<sup>3</sup> We believe that the Texas Association of School Boards should follow suit.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from the National School Boards Association to U.S. President Joseph R. Biden (Sept. 29, 2021) (requesting federal assistance against parents who are described as “domestic terrorists”), *available at* <https://nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-letter-to-president-biden-concerning-threats-to-public-schools-and-school-board-members-92921.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Zachary Evans, *National School Boards Association Apologizes for Letter Comparing Parents to Terrorists*, NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE (Oct. 22, 2021), *available at* <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/garland-refuses-to-dissolve-school-board-task-force-despite-national-school-board-group-apology/>.

<sup>3</sup> Caroline Downey, *Garland Refuses to Dissolve School Board Task Force Despite National School Board Group Apology*, NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE (Oct. 27, 2021), *available at* “As of Tuesday, the Ohio, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Tennessee,

Such association with an organization that views concerned parents as domestic terrorists is abhorrent to the laws of Texas and to the Constitution of the United States. Perhaps NSBA is unfamiliar with Texas Education Code Chapter 26.001, which states that “[p]arents are partners with educators, administrators, and school district board trustees in their children’s education,” and that “[p]arents shall be encouraged to actively participate in creating and implementing educational programs for their children.”<sup>4</sup> Similarly, NSBA must have also forgotten the long-held precedents of *Meyer v. Nebraska*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court held nearly one hundred years ago that “the right of the individual . . . to marry, establish a home, and bring up children” is a protected constitutional right.<sup>5</sup> They also seem to have overlooked the 1925 decision of *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, where the Supreme Court further held that “the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children” is protected under the U.S. Constitution.<sup>6</sup>

Mr. Beard, any association with this organization that seeks to force parents to relinquish complete control of their children’s education to the state reeks of communism, is in poor form, and should be immediately reconsidered. We strongly recommend that you follow the states of Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee and sever your ties with this anti-American organization. In the meantime, we will be working on legislation to make sure that this type of association is no longer able to be affiliated with the State of Texas.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mayes Middleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mayes Middleton  
State Representative  
Chairman, Texas Freedom Caucus

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and Louisiana state school board groups have severed their relationship with the [National School Boards Association] in response to its letter and the DOJ’s memo.”

<sup>4</sup> Texas Educ. Code § 26.001(a).

<sup>5</sup> *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390 at 399 (1923).

<sup>6</sup> *Pierce v. Society of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary*, 268 U.S. 510 at 534 (1925).