

32ND DISTRICT STATE CAPITOL P.O. BOX 30014 LANSING, MI 48909-7514

## MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## PAMELA HORNBERGER SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

November 16, 2021

Michigan Association of School Boards 1001 Centennial Way, Suite 400 Lansing, MI 48917

Dear Executive Director Wotruba,

We the undersigned members of the Michigan Legislature request your prompt attention to the matter regarding the September 29th letter from the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to the Biden Administration. We are deeply concerned about the future of education in Michigan.

Due to the message of disrespect toward parents and the request for action against them from the NSBA, we urge the Michigan Association of School Boards to immediately withdraw membership and affiliation with the NSBA.

While the NSBA has recently scrambled to apologize for its offensive letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ), new developments reveal NSBA officials coordinated with White House and DOJ officials for weeks to iron out the details of the letter before it was officially published. Knowing this backstory, their apology was clearly insincere. Contrary to their talking points, this letter does represent the views and the will of the NSBA.

The resulting memo that followed this letter directed the DOJ to collaborate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and federal, state, and local law enforcement to probe and potentially prosecute parents as "domestic terrorists." The NSBA letter falsely claimed school boards were "under immediate threat" from attendees and parents at local meetings across the United States. The memo also referred to parents and stakeholders as "extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings." These ridiculous accusations cannot be allowed to represent the views of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Parents deserve better than this from their local schools. The NSBA's view of them as "domestic terrorists" is offensive to millions of Michigan families who are properly invested in their children's lives. There is simply no evidence to justify that accusation, and the MASB cannot hold on to it.

Michigan legislators receive the same visits, calls, texts, messages on social media, e-mails, and other communications from parents who are tired of losing control over their child's education. Their concerns

are justified. Parents should be the primary decision makers in their children's education, and school boards should never dismiss their input as terrorist extremism.

Several states, including nearby Ohio and Pennsylvania, have already voted to withdraw their membership. Many other states are moving to do the same. We believe that ending MASB's membership and affiliation with the NSBA is in the best interest of all involved, especially our most important stakeholders, Michigan students and parents.

We the undersigned stand unequivocally with the students and parents of Michigan and call for our MASB to immediately withdraw from the NSBA.

Pamela Hornberger State Representative

Jamela Hornberger

District 32

Sue Allor

State Representative District 106

Andrew Beeler State Representative

District 83

Joseph Bellino, Jr. State Representative

District 17

Ryan Berman

State Representative

District 39

Timothy Beson

State Representative

District 96

Robert Bezotte State Representative

District 47

Ann Bollin

State Representative

District 42

Ken Borton

State Representative

District 105

Tommy Brann State Representative

District 77

Steve Carra

State Representative

District 59

Gary Eisen

State Representative

District 81

Dana Javingta

Diana Farrington State Representative District 30 Andrew Fink State Representative District 58 Annette Glenn State Representative District 98

Both Criffin

Beth Griffin State Representative District 66 Matt Hall State Representative District 63 Roger Hauck
State Representative
District 99

Steve Johnson State Representative District 72

Ster John

Bronna Kahle State Representative District 57 Matt Maddock State Representative District 44

Greg Markkanen
State Representative

District 110

David Martin State Representative District 48 Luke Meerman State Representative District 88

Jack O'Malley State Representative District 101 Pat Outman State Representative District 70 Brad Paquette State Representative District 78 John Reilly

John Reilly
State Representative
District 46

Daire Rendon State Representative District 103

Daire Rendon

Pauline Wendzel State Representative District 79

Mary Whiteford State Representative District 80

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Jeff Yaroch State Representative District 33 Bryan Posthumus State Representative District 73

Tulii Uliyandir

Julie Alexander State Representative District 64 Beau LaFave
State Representative
District 108