

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 29, 2024

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Austin:

A recent oversight report by the transparency watch dog, OpenTheBooks, details how Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) administrators and teachers continue to attempt to indoctrinate our service members' children with divisive gender, racial, and cultural ideology.<sup>1</sup> After nearly two years since our first letter on this topic, we are once again writing to express our concerns and outrage with the Department of Defense's refusal to address the ongoing attempted radical indoctrination of our service members' children.<sup>2</sup>

Last year following direct oversight from the Republican-led House Armed Services Committee, the former Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer for DoDEA, Kelisa Wing, was removed from her role because of racist social media posts and DoDEA Executive Director Thomas Brady disbanded DoDEA's DEI office.<sup>3</sup> It is evident that the dissolving of the DEI Office and the removal of Kelisa Wing only served as coverups to enable DoDEA to further integrate DEI into every aspect of our nation's military schools.

The recent OpenTheBooks report shines light on new examples of DoDEA teachers eager to promote sexually explicit content to children,<sup>4</sup> reveals training materials designed to get children to cry,<sup>5</sup> and classroom content ingrained with Social and Emotional Learning practices intended to turn students into radical activists.<sup>6</sup> Instead of disbanding the DEI division, DoDEA has institutionalized radical social and racial ideologies through the promotion of books such as *How to be an Antiracist* and *Coaching for Equity* to their staff for professional development. These

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<sup>1</sup> Andrzejewski, Adam & Smith, Thomas W. "Schools for Radicals." Open The Books. July 2024. [https://www.openthebooks.com/assets/1/6/DoDEA\\_Oversight\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.openthebooks.com/assets/1/6/DoDEA_Oversight_Report_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> "Letter to the DoDEA." September 26, 2022. Congress of the United States. [https://stefanik.house.gov/\\_cache/files/f/4/f4b99a6c-6592-4505-902a-77c5f51ecd78/61605C94E7788DD3BB41872ED3D3E228.09.16.22---ltr---dodea-letter-final-.pdf](https://stefanik.house.gov/_cache/files/f/4/f4b99a6c-6592-4505-902a-77c5f51ecd78/61605C94E7788DD3BB41872ED3D3E228.09.16.22---ltr---dodea-letter-final-.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Grossman, Hannah. "Pentagon disbands DEI unit after chief accused of 'racism' against Whites, injects agenda deeper into agency." March 31, 2023. Fox News. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/pentagon-disbands-dei-unit-chief-accused-racism-against-whites-injects-agenda-deeper-agency>

<sup>4</sup> LGBTQ+ Book Recommendations: Elementary School." 2022. [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JV-a76XXP7sFkUv7H9legH0g\\_udE5qEIuUKgJ\\_EhgWc/edit#slide=id.gbfd8a0d1c9\\_0\\_59](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JV-a76XXP7sFkUv7H9legH0g_udE5qEIuUKgJ_EhgWc/edit#slide=id.gbfd8a0d1c9_0_59)

<sup>5</sup> Eden, Max & Yenor, Scott. "Kids Must Cry." The American Mind. September 29, 2022. <https://americanmind.org/salvo/kids-must-cry/>

<sup>6</sup> Andrzejewski, Adam & Smith, Thomas W. "Schools for Radicals." Open The Books. July 2024. [https://www.openthebooks.com/assets/1/6/DoDEA\\_Oversight\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.openthebooks.com/assets/1/6/DoDEA_Oversight_Report_FINAL.pdf)

books are blatantly racist towards hundreds of millions of Americans and delegitimize the founding of America itself. The teachers of our service members' children cannot internalize, accept, and regurgitate false claims that America's existence as a sovereign nation should be in question. This is inherently in opposition to the selfless choice our service members make to serve, protect, and defend the United States of America.

It is completely unacceptable that once again House Republicans must remind you and the entire DoD that the mission of DoDEA is to provide our service members' children with an education that instills high academic standards and patriotism, not to manipulate and radicalize the minds of our youth. Your continuous refusal to end the radicalization of DoDEA schools is disrespectful to our service members, will exacerbate the military recruitment and retention crisis, and significantly degrade operational readiness.

There is a clear and immediate need for greater transparency and accountability within DoDEA. Last year, Section 589 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 codified a Parents Bill of Rights for our Service Members. However, the DoD has failed to produce a report on parental rights that was required by law to be completed in January 2024.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, we are calling for immediate leadership change within DoDEA and as members of the House Armed Services Committee, we are requesting written responses and a briefing for our staff no later than August 16, 2024, to address the following questions:

1. Why is DoDEA implementing a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum and what is the intent of this curriculum? How will DoDEA measure the success of the SEL curriculum based on academic achievements of the students?
2. How is DoDEA protecting the data of its students that is being collected through SEL requirements and shared with tech platforms such as Google Workspace?
3. Do DoDEA parents have transparency into teacher training materials, teacher required or suggested reading lists, and all books that will be present in their children's classrooms? If not, why?
4. If parents are uncomfortable with any of the curriculum that is being taught to their children, how are they able to remove their children from the classroom or project while still ensuring their children can be academically successful?
5. How is DoDEA going to realign its curriculum to meet its mission of providing a high-quality education to our service members' children?

Radical woke ideology is rotting out the schools of our service members' children and instead of addressing this, you have only exacerbated it. Our service members should not have to choose between serving their country or saving their children. You owe the American people and especially our service members answers and accountability.

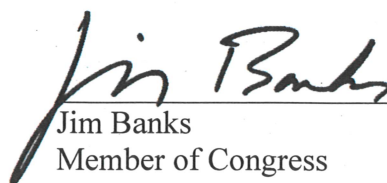
Sincerely,

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<sup>7</sup> National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, Pub. L. No. 118-31



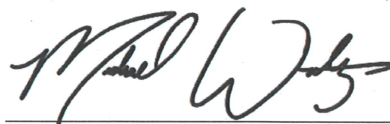
Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



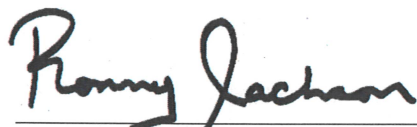
Jim Banks  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



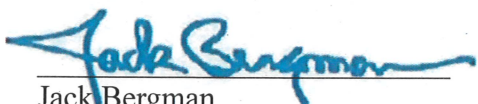
Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



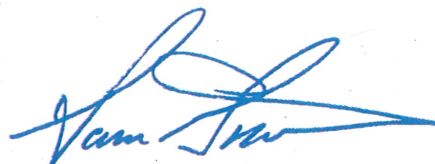
Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Jen A. Kiggans  
Member of Congress



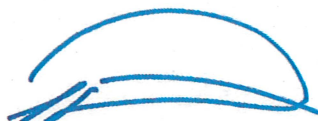
Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



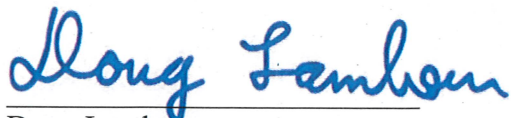
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



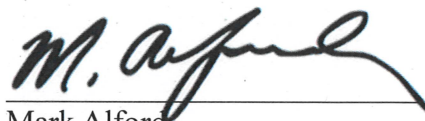
Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Mark Alford  
Member of Congress



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Cory Mills  
Member of Congress



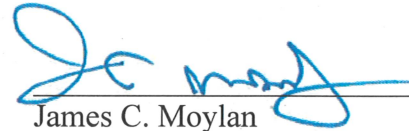
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Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



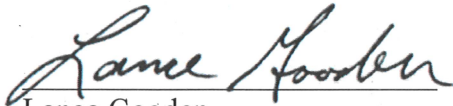
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Brad Finstad  
Member of Congress



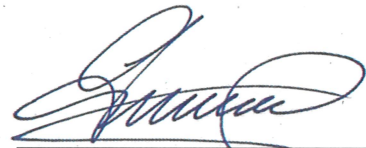
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James C. Moylan  
Member of Congress



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Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



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Carlos A. Giménez  
Member of Congress