



State of New Mexico  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Santa Fe

October 13, 2021

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor, State of New Mexico  
State Capitol, Room 400  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The Honorable Hector Balderas  
Attorney General, State of New Mexico  
Villagra Building  
408 Galisteo Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor and Mr. Attorney General:

We are writing to request that your offices work together to protect the rights of parents and other concerned citizens who wish to assemble peacefully and express their opinions at local school board meetings across our state. The recent announcement by the U.S. Attorney General that the FBI and U.S. Attorney's offices will begin meeting with federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders within the next 30 days to "combat" harassment and threats against school officials is a major overreach of federal authority. Equally important, having federal agents potentially attending these local school board meetings will have a chilling effect on the willingness of parents and others to exercise their constitutional rights at future public forums regarding the education of their children.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to inform the New Mexico U.S. Attorney and FBI officials that the State of New Mexico will not cooperate with federal agents who try to deny parents and others their constitutional rights at a public meeting. Further, we encourage both of you to speak out publicly about how the State of New Mexico will reassure parents and other concerned residents that they should never hesitate to appear at a local school board meeting, a local government meeting, or a state legislative/administrative hearing in order to express their opinions about public policy questions.

Violence or the threat of violence is never acceptable as part of the public discourse on which our republic so greatly depends, and we are confident state and local law enforcement officials can properly handle any acts of harassment or threats against school personnel. However, the involvement of the FBI is clearly unnecessary and any effort by a politicized U.S. Department of Justice to define parents expressing their opposition to Critical Race Theory or mask mandates as "domestic terrorism" simply has no place in New Mexico.

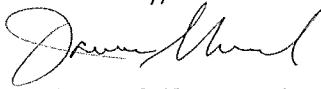
Parents and other concerned citizens have every right and responsibility to voice their wishes on how and what children are taught in our public schools. Yet, this imposition of the power of the federal government into clearly what is a state and local matter can only be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate law-abiding parents and residents from showing up at local school board meetings. The public debate and controversy surrounding efforts by some educators to encourage revisionist history and instill values and concepts that a vast majority of Americans find objectionable is no excuse to treat parents and others concerned residents as potential criminals.

In conclusion, we do not support or tolerate any acts violence perpetrated against school officials and we strongly condemn anyone who exhibits such behavior. However, law enforcement efforts, especially

action by federal agents, should never be conducted with a hint of political undertones or be a subtle attempt to deny people their freedom of speech or ability to assemble in a peaceful manner. We hope both of you will protect these fundamental rights and resist the temptation to put a political agenda above the rights of all New Mexicans.

We look forward to your response.

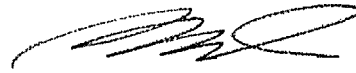
Sincerely,



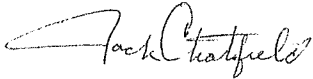
James G. Townsend  
House Republican Leader



Rod Montoya  
House Republican Whip



Rebecca Dow  
Caucus Chair



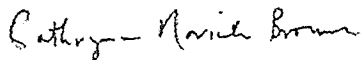
Jack Chatfield  
State Representative HD 67



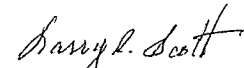
Alonzo Baldonado  
State Representative HD 8



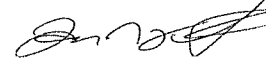
Gail Armstrong  
State Representative HD 49



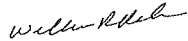
Cathrynn Brown  
State Representative HD 55



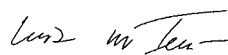
Larry Scott  
State Representative HD 62



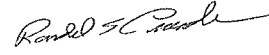
James Strickler  
State Representative HD 2



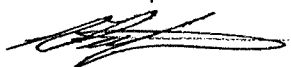
Bill Rehm  
State Representatives HD 31



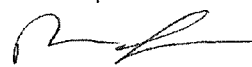
Luis Terrazas  
State Representative HD 39



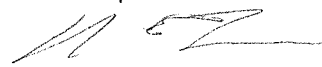
Randy Crowder  
State Representative HD 64



Randy Pettigrew  
State Representative HD 61



Ryan Lane  
State Representative HD 3



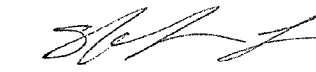
Martin Zamora  
State Representative HD 63



Rachel Black  
State Representative HD 51



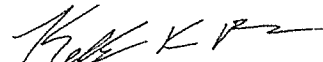
Candy Spence Ezzell  
State Representative HD 58



Stefani Lord  
State Representative HD 22



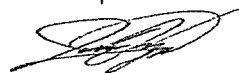
Jane Powdrell-Culbert  
State Representative HD 44



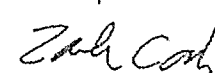
Kelly Fajardo  
State Representative HD 7



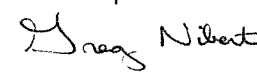
Josh Hernandez  
State Representative HD 60



Jason Harper  
State Representative HD 57



Zach Cook  
State Representative HD 56



Greg Nibert  
State Representative HD 59