

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216  
(202) 225-3951  
judiciary.house.gov

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

We received the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s half-page response to our serious concerns about the FBI’s use of counterterrorism resources—as evidenced by documents provided to us by a whistleblower—to target concerned parents at local school board meetings.<sup>1</sup> Your response declined to answer in detail any questions we posed or to provide any documents we sought. Your response regrettably highlights the FBI’s pattern of refusing to accept accountability for its actions and explains why public trust in the FBI’s senior leadership has eroded so significantly.

We know from publicly available information that the Biden Administration coordinated with a special interest group, the National School Boards Association, to develop a pretext for the Attorney General to direct federal law enforcement resources, including the FBI, to investigate concerned parents at school board meetings.<sup>2</sup> On October 20, 2021, the FBI operationalized the Attorney General’s directive in an email sent on behalf of Counterterrorism Division Assistant Director Timothy Langan directing all FBI personnel to apply a new “threat tag” to all “investigations and assessments of threats specifically directed against school board administrators, board members, teachers, and staff.”<sup>3</sup> Mr. Langan later testified to the House

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Jill C. Tyson, Assistant Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigation, to Ranking Member Jim Jordan, U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary (Jan. 28, 2022); *see* Email from Carlton Peeples, Deputy Assistant Dir., Criminal Investigative Div., Fed. Bureau of Investigation, to FBI\_SACS (Oct. 20, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> Memorandum from Atty Gen. Merrick Garland, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, And Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff (Oct. 4, 2021).

<sup>3</sup> Email from Carlton Peeples, Deputy Assistant Dir., Criminal Investigative Div., Fed. Bureau of Investigation, to FBI\_SACS (Oct. 20, 2021).

Intelligence Committee that the FBI also discussed the Attorney General's directive with the Justice Department prior to its issuance.<sup>4</sup>

Although the FBI claims that it "is fully committed to preserving and protecting" Americans' constitutional rights,<sup>5</sup> these assurances ring hollow in light of how the FBI spied on protected First Amendment activities during the campaign of President Trump and how the FBI continues to misuse its warrantless surveillance authorities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. In light of these abuses and the FBI's unfortunate history of civil liberty violations, we cannot trust the FBI's assurances at face value. Committee Republicans are committed to fully examining the FBI's use of counterterrorism resources in relation to school board meetings. Your half-page response does not alleviate our concerns, and therefore we reiterate our requests once more. Please provide the following documents and information:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to convening meeting(s) with U.S. Attorneys' Offices in accordance with the Attorney General's October 4, 2021, memorandum, the establishment of the Department's task force, or the FBI's role as a member of the task force;
2. All agendas, minutes, and notes created or relied upon by FBI employees referring or relating to meeting(s) in each judicial district in accordance with the Attorney General's October 4, 2021, memorandum or the FBI's role as a member of the task force;
3. Please explain whether you consider the Attorney General's October 4, 2021, memorandum to be lawful and whether you intend to direct FBI agents and employees to enforce the Attorney General's directives;
4. Please explain whether you have issued any internal guidance to FBI field offices or special agents in charge referring or relating to the Attorney General's October 4, 2021, memorandum;
5. Please explain the FBI's role in convening meetings as directed by the Attorney General's October 4, 2021, memorandum;
6. Please explain the FBI's role in the Department's task force, including what federal statutes the FBI intends to use in investigating concerned parents at school board meetings;
7. Please identify by name, title, and field office each FBI employee involved in the meeting(s) and task force referenced in the Attorney General's October 4, 2021, memorandum;

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<sup>4</sup> *Open C3 Subcommittee Hearing on Countering Domestic Terrorism, Hearing Before the H. Permanent Select Comm. on Intelligence*, 117th Cong. (Nov. 3, 2021) (testimony of Mr. Timothy Langan Jr., Assistant Dir., Counterterrorism Division, Fed. Bureau of Investigation).

<sup>5</sup> Letter from Jill C. Tyson, Assistant Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigation, to Ranking Member Jim Jordan, U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary (Jan. 28, 2022).

8. Please identify all federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial organizations invited to or that have attended the meetings convened in accordance with the October 4, 2021, memorandum;
9. Please provide all recommendations, both formal and informal, and any meeting minutes produced at the meeting(s) in accordance with the Attorney General's October 4, 2021, memorandum;
10. Please provide all recommendations, both formal and informal, that the FBI has made to the Department's task force;
11. Provide the number of parents who have been tagged by FBI with the EDUOFFICIALS threat tag;
12. All documents and communications referring or relating to the EDUOFFICIALS threat tag;
13. All documents and communications referring or relating to investigations identified and labeled with the EDUOFFICIALS threat tag; and
14. All documents and communications referring or relating to FBI investigations of school board threats sent or received by the following individuals:
  - a. Carlton L. Peoples, Deputy Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division;
  - b. Jay Greenberg, Deputy Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division;
  - c. Calvin A. Shivers, Assistant Director, Criminal Division;
  - d. Brian M. Cohen, Criminal Division;
  - e. Timothy R. Langan Jr., Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division; and
  - f. Kevin Vorndran, Deputy Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division.

In addition, we reiterate the request for interviews with Timothy Langan and Kevin Vorndran, which FBI staff initially offered to arrange in email correspondence with Committee staff, but has since ignored. We ask that you arrange for these meetings to occur promptly.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



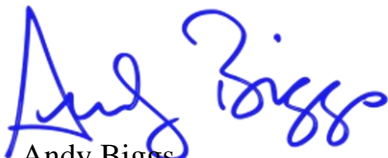
Darrell Issa  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual  
Property, and the Internet



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



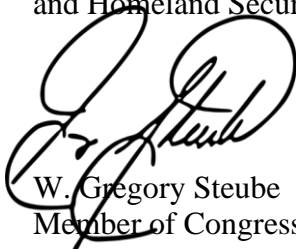
Mike Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Constitution,  
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties



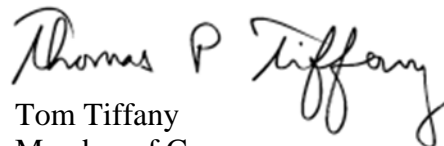
Andy Biggs  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism  
and Homeland Security



Tom McClintock  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Immigration  
and Citizenship



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



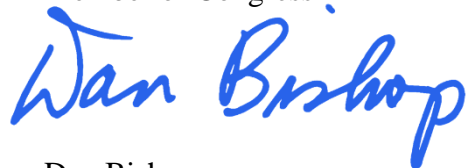
Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



Victoria Spartz  
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler  
Chairman