

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2025

The Honorable Denise Carter
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Re: Department of Education Woke Spending Resource

Dear Acting Secretary Carter,

With the start of the 119th Congress and the landslide reelection of President Donald J. Trump, it is indisputable that the American people are fed up with the woke nonsense of the Biden-Harris and Obama Administrations along with that of career D.C. bureaucrats. The problem is, however, that this mind virus has permeated so many aspects of our society. Most disturbing is the extent to which these ideals have infiltrated our nation's public school system due largely to the Education Department's (ED) funding incentives. While the American people spoke in a historic manner in November, unraveling these senseless and destructive policies woven into the framework of the gargantuan federal bureaucracy is certainly no small task and requires across-government collaboration.

In December 2024, Parents Defending Education (PDE) published a study revealing that the Biden-Harris Administration's ED doled out a staggering \$1 billion+ on discriminatory far-left ideologies, including Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and Critical Race Theory (CRT), that perpetuate the very discrimination these initiatives allegedly sought to oppose.¹ Among the key findings within this study was that the ED gave away millions in taxpayer dollars through federal grants to promote race-based teacher recruiting, hiring, and training; enact equity-centered education in K-12 districts; provide Trauma-Informed, Antiracist Social-Emotional Learning (TIAR-SEL); and to consult with equity "professionals."

Digging deeper into two of these over 200+ awards reveals the indoctrination and discrimination fostered in our children's schools. In 2023, the ED allocated \$4 million to the MK Level Playing Field Institute to support "SMASH 3.0: Innovation in Programming Strategies that Promote Equity in Computer Science Pathways for Historically-Excluded Students," which, according to the grant materials, is a "culturally responsive computer science (CS) exposure program that prepares marginalized students to engage with a CS path" and includes social-emotional workshops and culturally responsive facilitator training among its key components.²³ In yet another example, Montgomery County Schools in North Carolina received a staggering \$21.5 million for their Teacher and Principal Effectiveness Acceleration in Montgomery (TEAM) Program which seeks to provide equitable instructional and disciplinary training to staff through activities such as "monthly Teaching-In Color" professional development.⁴ Not only are some of these objectives completely nonsensical and discriminatory, but we seriously question the legality and extent to which hardworking Americans' taxpayer dollars are being wasted and abused.

¹ <https://defendinged.org/investigations/granted/>

² https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/2023/12/S411C230113_MK-Level-Playing-Field-Institute-dba-SMASH-Abstract_508.pdf

³ https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/2023/12/S411C230113_MK-Level-Playing-Field-Institute-dba-SMASH-Narrative_Redacted_508_QC.pdf

⁴ <https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/2024/01/Montgomery-County-Schools.pdf>

As you well know, at a time when students are struggling with basic literacy, mathematics, and other essential subjects critical for professional growth and development, awarding taxpayer dollars towards a divisive social agenda that seeks to separate students based on physical characteristics is beyond misguided. It is also important to highlight that this mind-blowing \$1 billion+ in federal funding does not account for the true number, given that PDE's essential research only constitutes available data. We do not doubt that the exact amount of spending on these woke objectives is far more than what has been reported. Furthermore, the aforementioned research, while invaluable, is simply one out of many studies and reports that illuminate the pervasiveness of this agenda under the Biden-Harris Administration.

While we know the ED under your and President Trump's leadership is fully prepared and committed to restoring sanity in the field of education and truly putting the needs of *all* our students first, the mess left behind by the Biden-Harris Administration will not be easily fixed. President Trump's wise decision to pause all wasteful federal financial assistance involving ideologies the American people have resoundingly rejected, including DEI, transgenderism, etc., pending further review, is a testament to this commitment.⁵ To assist in this effort, we have compiled a list of ED-administered grant programs that have routinely allocated federal dollars to some of the aforementioned projects. We believe that these programs are worthy of further review and, as appropriate, should be discontinued entirely, not only saving substantial amounts of money but also saving our children in the process. We hope this serves as a helpful resource as you work to fulfill the clear mandate bestowed by the American people.

- School-Based Mental Health Services Program
- Fostering Diverse Schools Demonstration Program
- Education Innovation and Research Program
- Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program
- Teacher Quality Partnership Program
- Postdoctoral Research Training Program in the Education Sciences
- Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Program
- National Professional Development Program
- Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program
- Supporting Effective Educator Development Program

Sincerely,



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress

⁵ <https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-pause-federal-grants-aid-f9948b9996c0ca971f0065fac85737ce>

Handwritten signature of Paul A. Gosar in blue ink.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Troy E. Nehls in black ink.

Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Lauren Boebert in black ink.

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress