



U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

November 9, 2021

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Director:

As you are one of the recipients of Attorney General Merrick Garland's October 4 memorandum, I write to you today with a few questions regarding the role of the FBI in the announced "Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff."

First, what amount of resources is being used to convene meetings with federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial leaders in every federal judicial district across the United States?

Second, does the FBI intend to investigate matters of school board members who post parents' names, addresses, employers, and alleged "wrongs" online to harass, intimidate, or coerce those in the community who hold different opinions?

Third, has the FBI offered federal investigative support to state or local law enforcement in these doxing cases as a part of the Partnership?

A parent who makes a school board member emotionally uncomfortable simply by asking about school policies and curriculum content is not committing a crime. A heavy-handed approach by the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation will only serve to chill free speech in contravention of the First Amendment. Concerns about student safety must be taken seriously, and parents must be heard. In order to help prevent potential confrontations at school board meetings, the FBI should consider reminding states' Secretaries of Education that parents have the right to speak and to ask questions at public meetings. The very existence of public meetings implies that private processes are not the only viable method for parents to inquire about safety and the education of their children.

I look forward to hearing back from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress