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Inside Track

School Boards Manufactured Attack on Parents



Merrick Garland (AP Images)

According to the interim report released on March 21 by the House Committee on the Judiciary and its Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, there is more than enough evidence to prove that the National School Boards Association (NSBA), working in coordination with the Biden administration, created out of whole cloth the pressing need for federal investigation of parents. Twenty-five of those parents were investigated, but not a single charge was brought, indicating that the entire outrage was “manufactured” with no “legitimate basis,” according to the committee.

In September 2021, in response to parents protesting what they perceived to be major educational issues brought to light during the Covid-inspired lockdowns, Viola Garcia and Chip Slaven, president and CEO of NSBA, respectively, signed a letter to the White House stating, “America’s public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association ... respectfully asks for federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation.... NSBA believes immediate assistance is required.”

Only five days after receiving the letter, Attorney General Merrick Garland issued his instructions directing “the FBI and U.S. Attorneys’ Offices to meet in the next 30 days ... to discuss strategies for addressing this disturbing trend,” weaponizing the agencies under his command to go after American citizens exercising their First Amendment-protected rights.

The White House is stalling in providing requested documents to the committee. Additionally, the committee has repeatedly asked Garland to rescind the weaponization letter, but he has refused to do so. That means that the weaponry against anyone who might be considered a “domestic terrorist” in the future remains in place.

The stalling by the DOJ and Garland’s refusal to rescind the letter demonstrate that the attack was manufactured from the start to quell the outrage of parents who learned just how schools were



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radicalizing their children.

— *Bob Adelman*

Arkansas Governor Signs School “Bathroom Bill”



Sarah Huckabee Sanders (AP Images)

On March 21, Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed a bill into law mandating that individuals at public and charter schools in the state use the bathroom or locker room of their biological sex. For purposes of enforcing the new statute, a person’s sex is to be determined by referring to the person’s “original birth certificate, issued at or near the time” of birth.

As would be expected, opponents of this bill — and of biology — have portrayed it as some sort of hateful expression of “transphobia.”

On March 15, after legislators sent the bill to Sanders, Holly Dickson, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas, told the Associated Press (AP), “By requiring schools to police student’s [sic] restroom usage and forcing trans youth to use restrooms that do not align with their gender identity, this bill creates a hostile and discriminatory environment that could lead to exclusion, harassment, and bullying.”

However, people who support such protection of children recognize that the desire by a minute segment of the population to protect their psychological abnormalities cannot be allowed to take precedence over “genetics and physiology.”

According to AP, this makes Arkansas the fourth state to ban biological males from girls’ bathrooms. The governors of Iowa and Idaho have bills sitting on their desks, while Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Alabama have enacted similar legislation.

The Daily Signal reported on March 22 that lawmakers in Arkansas may not be finished shoring up science in the Natural State: “Arkansas’ bill could soon be followed by an even more aggressive piece of legislation: Senate Bill 270, which would make it a criminal offense for a person 18 years old or older to knowingly enter and remain in a public changing facility that is assigned to members of the opposite



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sex ‘while knowing a minor of the opposite sex is present in the public changing facility.’”

The law signed by Governor Sanders goes into effect this summer, prior to the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.

—Joe Wolverton

Amazon Accused of Collecting Biometric Data



(Vertigo3d/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

In a class-action lawsuit filed March 16 by an Amazon Go customer, Amazon was accused of not properly notifying its New York Amazon Go store customers that it was tracking and collecting their biometric data.

Amazon Go stores are cashierless stores operated by Amazon.com that allow customers to enter the store, pick up the products they want, and walk out without having to wait in a checkout line or scan their items. The stores use a combination of computer vision, sensor fusion, and deep-learning technologies to detect which products customers take off the shelves and then charge their Amazon accounts accordingly.

According to the lawsuit, Amazon Go collects biometric data “by scanning the palms of some customers to identify them and by applying computer vision, deep learning algorithms, and sensor fusion that measure the shape and size of each customer’s body to identify customers, track where they move in the stores, and determine what they have purchased.”

There is reasonable concern that the biometric data allegedly collected by Amazon might find their way into federal databases, as Amazon also provides server space to the federal government.

Nearly all the data collected by the National Security Agency (NSA) is stored in the cloud. The database used — Intelligence Community GovCloud — is reportedly classified and helps the federal surveillance organization “connect the dots” among the scores of systems employed by the agency to store and sort data.



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NextGov admitted back in 2018 that the system backing the GovCloud database is the same one found “in data centers owned by Facebook, Amazon or other industry titans,” and that “the CIA awarded a \$600 million contract to Amazon Web Services to develop a commercial cloud environment for the [Intelligence Community] agencies.”

Amazon Go’s collection of biometric data could have nothing to do with their contract with the federal government’s surveillance agencies, but concern remains that customers’ personal information could be accessible to the NSA, CIA, or other federal agency whose cloud servers are provided by the same company.

—Joe Wolverton

Stanford Students to Get Mandatory Free-speech Training



(zimmytws/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

On March 9, U.S. Circuit Judge Kyle Duncan appeared at an event sponsored by the Stanford chapter of the Federalist Society. Duncan, an appointee of President Donald Trump, was scheduled to speak on recent Supreme Court decisions involving Covid-19, firearms, and social media.

Before Duncan could even be introduced, an obviously premeditated protest — “a well-planned and carefully orchestrated effort” by the Marxist National Lawyers Guild and its “useful idiots” among the campus Left, according to Alan Dershowitz in a March 23 Substack post — erupted, with students shouting obscenities including “We hope your daughters get raped” at Duncan.

School administrators in attendance, meanwhile, stood idly by. When Duncan finally asked one of them to intervene, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tirien Steinbach stepped forward and delivered a six-minute prepared speech — dressing down Duncan, not his hecklers. Duncan ultimately gave up on his presentation and had to be escorted off campus by two U.S. marshals.

Two days later, Stanford Law School’s dean, Jenny Martinez, and Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne sent Duncan a formal letter of apology, saying they were “taking steps to ensure that something like this does not happen again.”



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Among those steps is placing Steinbach “on leave,” Martinez wrote in a March 22 letter to the law school’s community. She declined to comment further on Steinbach’s status, but added, “at future events, the role of any administrators present will be to ensure that university rules on disruption of events will be followed.”

Steinbach’s actions, she noted, also made disciplining disruptive students “problematic.” So instead, all students will be required to attend a “mandatory half-day session ... on the topic of freedom of speech and the norms of the legal profession.”

Judging by their actions vis-à-vis Duncan, these students need far more than half a day of such training. Unless these future lawyers come to understand the value of unhindered discourse, free speech — and many other liberties Americans have long taken for granted — won’t stand a chance.

— *Michael Tennant*



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