

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

November 18, 2021

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary
Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20202-3100

Dear Secretary Cardona,

We write to you today to request information on the investigation being conducted by the Department of Education (Department) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) about the allegations of racial and gender discrimination at Carroll Independent School District (ISD) in Southlake, Texas.

Carroll ISD has an exceptional record, boasting a zero percent dropout rate, is one of the largest districts in the state of Texas to earn the top rating of “Exemplary” by the Texas Education Agency, and has won the coveted UIL Lone Star Cup for four years running. We acknowledge that the Department is legally obligated to investigate allegations of discrimination. However, at a time when students are suffering from crippling learning loss due to union-forced lockdowns and this administration’s policies, we are concerned the Department will use this complaint to launch a politically motivated investigation of a thriving district whose parents disagree with this administration’s policies.

Based on recent actions by the Biden administration, we fear your Department will weaponize federal resources to intimidate parents who disagree with the policies of this administration and voiced their objections overwhelmingly and lawfully through local elections held in May of this year. Furthermore, given Carroll ISD’s achievements in education, we are concerned the Department will conduct an authoritarian-style retaliation against the community.

To address these troubling developments, we request responses to the following questions within 30 days:

- What initiated the investigation that OCR is conducting?
- What criteria must be met for the Department to launch a formal investigation?
- During the investigation process, how are you planning to engage the community of Southlake and inform the parents and local leaders about the investigation?
- What is the estimated cost to the taxpayer to conduct this investigation?
- At any point, or at the end of an investigation, is any information sent to or referred to the Department of Justice?

Secretary Miguel Cardona

November 18, 2021

Page 2

Clearly, if the Department feels an investigation is merited, the questions listed above should be easy to answer and there should be no justification to hide those answers from the public.

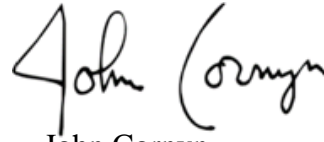
Additionally, we request any documents related to this investigation be appropriately preserved for congressional review and oversight.

We look forward to your response, and if you have any questions please contact Brayden Woods at (202) 225-6605 or at Brayden.Woods@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and
Labor



Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions