NANCY MACE

1st District, South Carolina

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September 12, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon Secretary of Education United States Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary McMahon:

We are disturbed by the assassination of Charlie Kirk, a lifelong advocate for freedom of speech, civil political discourse, and the political engagement of youth, at a postsecondary educational institution in Utah. Charlie touched the lives of millions of young people with the courage of his convictions and inspired an entire generation of Americans to love their country, and its foundational ideals of faith, family, and freedom. Perhaps most importantly, Charlie led countless souls to Christ, and was a husband, and a father to two young children – who our hearts break for, and to whom we extend our deepest sympathies and prayers.

In recent years, we have seen horrific instances of political violence in this country, including the attempted assassination of President Trump in Butler, PA, which cost the life of Corey Comperatore, the subsequent assassination attempt of President Trump in Palm Beach, FL, and the targeted shooting of Republican members of Congress and staff at a practice for the Congressional Baseball Game.

As the public mourns the tragic assassination of Charlie Kirk, unfortunately some far-Left teachers, professors, and administrative personnel at elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educational institutions across the country have seen fit to celebrate or make light of the horrific assassination of Charlie and even to make excuses for, or to justify political violence in America.

This is fundamentally incompatible with the values of our nation – and anyone who would celebrate the assassination of their fellow citizen, should have no role in educating America's children. Schools who fail to take immediate administrative action, and to the extent allowed by

law, to terminate any personnel who spews this hate, which is irreconcilable with the values of this country, should not be subsidized by the American taxpayer.

We ask you, as Secretary of Education, to review and terminate Federal financial assistance to any elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educational institution, which fails to take administrative action or discipline, to the maximum extent allowable by law, against any personnel who choose to justify political violence or celebrate the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

Those who have spent the last several days celebrating the assassination of our fellow citizen or defending politically motivated violence are not just being insensitive to all mourning the death of Charlie, their rhetoric is sick and disturbing. This vile language serves no other purpose than to beget more political violence in this country. Children and young adults should not be taught by those who promote or excuse political violence.

We urge you to protect America's youth from those who would spew this abhorrent rhetoric, and terminate Federal financial assistance to any elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educational institution which fails to take immediate administrative action, and to the extent allowed by law, to terminate any personnel who would celebrate or justify political violence.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mace

Member of Congress