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“We profess to be republicans, and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government; that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible; for this divine book, above all others, favors that equality among mankind, that respect for just laws, and all those sober and frugal virtues which constitute the soul of republicanism.”

Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence

House Republicans Obtain Information that the FBI Investigated Parents

Members of the House Judiciary Committee have sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland in which they detail information they received from a whistleblower that reveals the FBI investigated parents who opposed local school boards. This letter is not the first one GOP Members have sent to Garland on this topic. In November, a [letter](#) was sent after a whistleblower revealed an [FBI memo](#) in which the FBI’s Counterterrorism Division and Criminal Division announced a new “threat tag”—EDUOFFICIALS—to be applied to “investigations and assessments of threats specifically directed against school board administrators, board members, teachers, and staff.” Rep. Jim Jordan, Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, pointed out in the November letter that the information regarding the threat tag contradicted Garland’s sworn statement before the committee in October that he “could not imagine any circumstance in which the Patriot Act would be used in the circumstances of parents complaining about their children, nor . . . a circumstance where they could be labeled a domestic terrorist.” His statement was made in response to questions about his [October 4 memo](#) which instructed law enforcement to conduct investigations into parents who were questioning and opposing local school boards. However, despite his denial of investigations, information coming out from whistleblowers show that, indeed, Garland’s directive caused investigations into concerned parents.

The most recent [GOP letter](#) to Garland, sent on May 11, highlights new information received from a whistleblower that details specific cases where parents were indeed investigated because of their position on mask mandates, vaccine mandates, or certain curricula used in schools. One mother who told her local school board “we are coming for you,” referring to replacing them in elections, was investigated because she was part of a group called “Moms for Liberty” and owned a gun. A father was investigated because a complaint was filed that he “fit the profile of an insurrectionist,” “rails against the government,” “believes all conspiracy theories,” and “has a lot of guns and threatens to use them.” However, in an interview with authorities, the person making the complaint admitted to having “no specific information or observations of . . . any crimes or threats.” As Rep. Jordan points out in his letter, “This information is startling.” He then pointedly charges, “You have subjected these moms and dads to the opening of an FBI investigation about them, the establishment of an FBI case file that includes their political views, and the application of a ‘threat tag’ to their names as a direct result of their exercise of their fundamental constitutional right to speak and advocate for their children.” He adds, this is “evidence of the Biden administration . . . using federal law enforcement, including counterterrorism resources, to investigate concerned parents for protected First Amendment activity.” Rep. Jordan concluded his May 11 letter by stating the “Committee Republicans will not let this matter drop” and further requested multiple documents from Garland. Undoubtedly, this is an issue that will be highlighted by Republicans should they gain majority in the House of Representatives in the November elections.

Senate Vote Fails to Legalize Abortion Nationwide

In the wake of the leaked draft of a Supreme Court ruling which could overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer forced a vote last week in the Senate on a bill which would legalize abortion by law rather than through a court ruling. The vote failed [49-51](#), an outcome which was predicted; but Senator Schumer was determined to hold the vote regardless to put senators on record as to where they stood on the issue. The legislation, named the Women's Health Protection Act by Democrats, would do far more than simply codify the *Roe v. Wade* decision into law. The pro-life organization Susan B. Anthony (SBA) List dubbed the bill the Abortion on Demand Until Birth Act in a [letter to senators](#) which describes the extreme nature of the legislation. As explained by the SBA List, the bill "eviscerates common-sense pro-life laws nationwide and creates a federal right to carry out abortions on unborn children for any reason throughout pregnancy." Furthermore, the bill [leaves no room for conscience or religious exemptions](#) by making clear that it would supersede all other federal and state laws, including the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Following the failed vote of the legislation, SBA List president Marjorie Dannenfelser [stated](#), "Pro-abortion Democrats are dramatically out of touch with the American people, who overwhelmingly reject abortion on demand until birth. The deeply unpopular Abortion on Demand Until Birth Act would wipe away nearly all common-ground pro-life protections in the states, including limits on painful late-term abortion which the people strongly support. It was doomed to fail, and it did." As [reported in last week's Washington Flyer](#), multiple polls over the last two years show that the majority of Americans support restricting abortion and overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Texas Supreme Court Allows Abuse Inquiries of Parents Allowing Transgender Procedures

Last week, the Texas Supreme Court ruled [to allow](#) the state to investigate parents for child abuse for putting their children through sex reassignment procedures. In February, Governor Greg Abbott issued an [order](#) allowing the state to investigate parents trying to transition their children. Attorney General Ken Paxton also issued a legal opinion stating that procedures to give children hormones, stop puberty, and even remove healthy body parts qualify as child abuse, [calling](#) it "monstrous and tragic." Governor Abbott's statement emphasized the abusive nature of procedures such as "reassignment surgeries that can cause sterilization, mastectomies, removals of otherwise healthy body parts, and administration of puberty-blocking drugs or supraphysiologic doses of testosterone or estrogen." While these procedures are often touted as "gender affirming" medical care, in reality they harm children by halting their healthy development and denying their biology. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Lambda Legal, a gay rights organization, quickly sued to stop the state from investigating families for potential cases of child abuse, resulting in this recent ruling. The state Supreme Court's opinion is a [mixed ruling](#), halting the state's investigation into one family but allowing the Department of Family and Protective Services to move forward with other investigations. Texas joins a [growing number](#) of states that have engaged in efforts to protect children from irreparably harmful transgender procedures. At least six states have introduced bills that prohibit sex reassignment procedures on children, and [many others](#) have sought to protect women and girls in sports and private spaces from radical gender ideology.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Promise to America's Children](#)

[26 States Will Ban Abortion when Supreme Court Overturns *Roe v. Wade*](#)