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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES NATIONAL PARKS, FOREST, AND PUBLIC LANDS



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, **DC** 20515—0605

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The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz U.S. Department of Justice Office of Inspector General 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Mr. Inspector General:

I write today to request that you formally investigate the potential conflict of interests with Attorney General Garland and Panorama Education. This relationship is increasingly concerning as the Attorney General has recently tasked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to look into parents expressing their First Amendment rights at school board meetings across the country.

Recent news reports have unveiled that Attorney General Garland's son-in-law, Alexander Tanner, is a cofounder of Panorama Education, an organization stating that they "believe in supporting schools and districts from beginning to end—from administering surveys and conducting data analysis, to providing hands-on coaching and support." According to their website, Panorama Education supports over 13 million students in 21,000 schools and 1,500 districts. They are key players in the teacher training and curriculum industry, currently in more than one-fifth of the nation's largest 100 school districts. Reports have shown payments of a combined \$12 million, from at least 22 of the nation's largest 100 school districts to Panorama in recent years. In Fairfax County, Panorama Education has a \$1.8 million contract to conduct a multi-year "social and emotional learning screener," giving them the right to collect "psychometrics" on the school district's 180,000 students.

Panorama Education themselves state that we must address social-emotional learning through an equity lens. A slideshow hosted by Panorama Education calls on activists to agree that "I affirm my intersectionality" and defines systemic racism as the "systematic distribution of resources, power, and opportunity in our society to the benefit of people who are white." Panorama CEO and Co-Founder Aaron Feuer further states that the educational system can "perpetuate oppression and injustice ... and allowing racism to continue unchecked". Furthermore, some of the specific questions asked by Panorama Education are concerning, mainly in light of the Attorney General's recent crackdown. The questions ask students if they are feeling "genderfluid" or if they are comfortable having honest conversations about race. These questions focus heavily on aspects of critical race theory and gender theory, which many parents are greatly opposed to.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Panorama Education is granted the status of "school officials," meaning they have the right to private student data. This is a federal law that Attorney General Garland would have to enforce. My concerns are that Attorney General Garland's family is

profiting off Panorama Education's curriculum and data mining, while he simultaneously works to halt parents from expressing concerns over these practices. According to the Department of Justice's Conflict of Interest Policy, "An employee may not participate, without authorization, in a particular matter having specific parties that could affect the financial interests of members of her household." Therefore, I ask that you immediately open an investigation into the conflict of interest for Attorney General Garland. The Department of Justice must always act in the best interest of the American people, not of its Attorney General. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Doug Lambor

Member of Congress