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Senate Chamber

State of Tennessee

Senator Janice Bowling

16th Senatorial District

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May 17, 2016

The Honorable Herbert Slatery, Jr.
Attorney General
425 5th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Attorney General Slatery,

Greetings from the General Assembly. It was with incredulity that we heard of the latest overreach of this federal administration. They have no legal authority to direct schools to accommodate students with gender identity disorder at the expense of the mentally healthy enrollment.

When the constitution and/or the law do not result in the advancement of their far left social agenda, they seem to resort to their preferred tactic: bullying. Bullying through threats of withholding the legal return of our pass through dollars and bullying through their unique deployment of mobocracy seem to be interchangeable weapons in the arsenal used to achieve assumed unilateral authority.

We are asking you to challenge the legal authority of the federal government to enforce any "directives" or financial withholding threats contained in the guidance letter issued on Thursday, May 12, 2016. The sovereign states of North Carolina, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas have already filed legal arguments against this current federal overreach. Creating directives in the absence of legal authority of supporting laws must be challenged. In ever increasing ways, the federal administration has devolved into the antithesis of the rule of law.

Additionally, we are requesting that you send a letter to all LEAs letting them know that the presidential directive is, as stated by Governor Haslam, not an enforcement action and makes no additional requirements. As North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest stated, "The president's non-binding directive is merely his attempt to push his version of a social policy on our state with no constitutional authority to do so. It should be rejected as a matter of principal and policy."

Thank you for your prompt response to this urgent request. Our children's future must not be held hostage by an overreaching federal government.

Sincerely,



Senator Janice Bowling



Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey



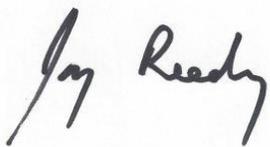
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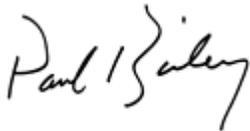
Representative Mark Pody



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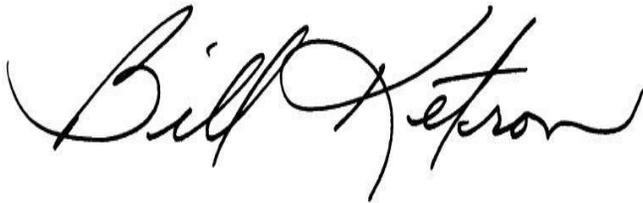
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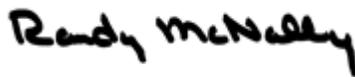
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