



April 1, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
House Committee on Education &
the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Chairman Walberg,

During the Biden Administration, federal officials shamelessly used taxpayer dollars to attack Christians, their values and their institutions.

We all witnessed the Department of Justice persecute peaceful pro-life protestors while turning a blind eye to the rise of violence against Catholics. The Federal Bureau of Investigation went as far as releasing a memorandum claiming “radical-traditionalist” Catholics were domestic terror threats, and the Department of Health and Human Services sought to exclude Christians from becoming foster parents if they did not support the woke transgender agenda. If all that wasn’t enough, the White House declared March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday, as “Transgender Day of Visibility.”

Unfortunately, the Biden Administration did not stop there – they used the Department of Education to ruthlessly attack Christian colleges and universities.

My organization, the American Principles Project, recently conducted a report that found the Biden Administration weaponized the Department of Education against Christian colleges and universities through the Office of Enforcement. Nearly 70 percent of the Department’s enforcement actions have involved faith-based and career schools, despite those schools representing less than 10 percent of students nationwide.

The Biden Administration used excessive fines, scrutinize-and-harassment tactics and withholding of federal funding to punish Christian schools for their beliefs and push them to close their doors.

We found that at least 12 Christian colleges and universities were targeted with excessive penalties or banned from receiving federal student aid; by comparison, no Ivy League school has

been the recipient of punitive action by the Office of Enforcement. In fact, two of the nation's most prominent Christian universities received record fines from the Biden Administration – Grand Canyon University (\$37.7 million) and Liberty University (\$14 million). These fines total more than all other penalties assessed by the Department of Education over the past seven years.

The Biden Administration also unjustly scrutinized and harassed Christian and faith-affiliated schools, and ultimately weaponized the Clery Act and Integrated Postsecondary Education Systems (IPEDS) surveys to accomplish their goal. Over the last 10 years, the Department of Education has issued nearly 75 fines for Clery Act violations, totaling \$27.5 million in penalties. Twenty of those, more than a quarter, were against Christian colleges and universities. The average fine against a Christian school was \$815,000 compared to \$228,571 against public and private institutions.

These are just a few of the egregious cases of how the Biden Administration weaponized the Department against Christian higher education. I know there are many more examples of injustice that need to be brought to light. Thankfully, President Trump has committed to dismantling the Department of Education. However, that does not give these schools any recourse or prevent any future attacks against faith institutions from future administrations.

I am calling on you to hold an investigatory hearing into the Biden Administration's discriminatory practices against Christian institutions. Those who actively pursued this anti-Christian agenda must be held accountable; we need to ensure that these excessive retaliatory fines are dropped entirely and not simply transferred to another department for payout. The reaction from lawmakers must be made perfectly clear so that we can ensure our schools are protected from attacks on religious freedom in the future.

I look forward to working with you to protect our Christian colleges and universities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Schilling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Schilling
President
American Principles Project