



Ohio School Boards
Association

October 25, 2021

Mr. Chip Slaven, Interim Executive Director and CEO
Ms. Viola Garcia, President
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St, FL2
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Slaven and Ms. Garcia:


We have been directed by the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Board of Trustees to inform you that OSBA will not continue its membership in the National School Boards Association (NSBA). As you are aware, OSBA postponed its membership and dues decision earlier this year pending changes in both leadership and direction at NSBA.

OSBA's decision to terminate membership and affiliation with the NSBA Association is a direct result of the letter sent by you to President Joe Biden late last month. The letter purported to be sent on behalf of state associations and school board members across the nation. This assertion could not be further from the truth. OSBA was not notified of the letter, nor were we asked for our thoughts on the matter. If we had been consulted, we would have strongly disagreed with NSBA's decision to request federal intervention as well as your claims of domestic terrorism and hate crimes.

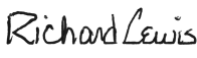
OSBA believes strongly in the value of parental and community discussion at school board meetings, and we reject the labeling of parents as domestic terrorists. There is tremendous value in allowing and encouraging the public to have meaningful input into the decision-making process. However, that participation should not come at the expense of interfering with the board's ability to conduct its business or subjecting individual board members to threats of violence, abuse, or harassment. That said, dealing with such interference should be dealt with at the local level, not by federal officials.

The NSBA letter demonstrated just how out of touch the national association is with the concerns of local school boards and the principle of local control. OSBA can no longer allow NSBA to speak for our association or our membership and no longer see the value of continued membership.

Sincerely,


Robert M. Heard Sr.
OSBA President

Sincerely,


Richard C. Lewis
Chief Executive Officer

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OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.