

Sunday, May 17, 2026

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Personal Impact Statement Regarding the Southern Poverty Law Center's Designation of Moms for Liberty

Dear Federal Officials and Members of Congress:

My name is Rosalind Hanson, and I am the Chapter Chair of the Moms for Liberty Montgomery County, Maryland chapter. Our chapter has been specifically identified or listed by the SPLC. I am submitting this letter to share the personal impact I experienced following the Southern Poverty Law Center's designation of Moms for Liberty as a "hate" or "extremist" organization.

I became involved with Moms for Liberty in the spring of 2023, when the Montgomery County Public Schools district in Maryland revoked parents' fundamental right to direct the upbringing of their children. I wanted to have a voice with the sea of parents who felt violated and disregarded by our local government when the school district took away parents' right to opt out of the curriculum that conflicted with their deeply held religious beliefs. Parents filed a lawsuit against the district to reinstate the opt-out, and the case was heard in the United States Supreme Court. In June of 2025, the Supreme Court sided with parents in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*.

Following the SPLC designation, I experienced the following personal impact:

In my 2023 child custody case, my child's father directly weaponized the SPLC's designation of Moms for Liberty in sworn discovery responses to argue that my increased involvement in my child's education and faith made me potentially unfit to have primary educational custody. I was petitioning the court for a custody change so we could meaningfully explore educational alternatives to public school. This single label portrayed me as a dangerous radical simply for exercising my rights as a parent when conversation failed.

Attached as Exhibit A is an excerpt from my child's father's discovery answers (Interrogatory 22). He explicitly states that since our divorce, my involvement "has become significantly more extreme," citing my role as Vice Chair of the [redacted] chapter of Moms for Liberty, which he ties directly to the SPLC's extremist label. The clear implication, accepted into our custody proceedings, was that being an "everyday mom" involved with Moms for Liberty should be considered in determining whether I am unfit to have primary educational custody of my own child.

Thankfully, we reached a custody agreement through mediation that preserved my meaningful role in my child's life. However, had mediation failed, a judge could have relied on this egregious attack and the SPLC's inflammatory label to strip custody from a fit mother who has done nothing but advocate for her child's best interests. The mere presence of the "extremist" smear in the court record created a real risk of irreparable harm to my parental rights, my reputation, and my relationship with my child.

In my experience, the SPLC designation contributes to a broader culture of hostility and intimidation surrounding parents engaging in education advocacy and public debate. The label creates an environment where ordinary citizens standing up for their children are increasingly treated as dangerous or hateful simply because of their association with Moms for Liberty and their participation in local civic engagement.

Like many others involved with Moms for Liberty, I am a mother who became involved simply because I wanted a voice in our children's education and future.

I respectfully request that federal officials examine the role that the SPLC's classifications have played in fostering hostility, intimidation, and public targeting of law-abiding citizens and community groups engaged in lawful civic advocacy and public debate.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

Rosalind Hanson

Bethesda, MD