

May 15, 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 Kim Poteat, and I serve as chapter chair for the Moms for Liberty Buncombe County, North Carolina chapter. Our chapter was specifically identified and listed by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). I am submitting this statement to describe the personal, and community impacts I experienced following the SPLC's designation of Moms for Liberty as a "hate" or "extremist" organization.

I became involved with Moms for Liberty because of concerns regarding age-inappropriate books and curriculum materials within Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools. I believed it was important to advocate for greater transparency in education and increased parental involvement in local schools and school governance.

Following the SPLC designation, I experienced several significant personal and organizational impacts:

- The designation affected my **church's willingness to allow any involvement with our organization, including chapter meetings, board meetings, or even one-on-one meetings with community members on church property.** This eliminated what would otherwise have been a central and accessible meeting location for our chapter.
- The designation **severely affected personal relationships within our organization.** One board member, who had become a close personal friend, distanced herself due to fears created by the public labeling and has spoken with me only once since October 2023.
- I received **threatening correspondence through the mail.** A retired law enforcement officer advised me to report the matter to local authorities, which I did. The local police department opened an investigation and issued Case No. 2023315595 on November 13, 2023. **My family and I became increasingly concerned about our personal safety.**
- Media outlets, activists, and community members repeatedly referred to Moms for Liberty as a "hate" or "extremist" organization in public forums and discussions. This contributed to fear, hostility, and reduced participation among parents and community members who otherwise wished to be involved.

- Due to targeted protests and concerns about possible violence at chapter meetings and events, **our organization incurred significant expenses hiring private security for monthly meetings and special events.**
- Individuals and organizations regularly referenced the SPLC designation during local school board meetings, often characterizing Moms for Liberty as a “hate” or “extremist” organization in front of attendees and public officials. This created negative attention toward our members and discouraged participation in public meetings and civic engagement.
- **The designation discouraged individuals from joining our chapter, serving in leadership roles, or publicly associating with the organization. Some leadership team members withdrew from participation because of concerns about their families’ safety and reputation.**

In my experience, the SPLC designation contributed to a broader climate of hostility and intimidation directed toward parents engaged in education advocacy and public debate. The designation created an environment in which ordinary citizens advocating for their children and participating in local civic affairs were increasingly viewed and treated as dangerous or hateful because of their association with Moms for Liberty.

Like many others involved with Moms for Liberty, I am a mother, grandmother, and community volunteer who became involved 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 may play in contributing to hostility, intimidation, reputational harm, and public targeting of law-abiding citizens and community organizations engaged in lawful civic advocacy and public debate.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns.

Respectfully,

Kim Poteat  
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 Asheville, NC  
 Moms for Liberty Buncombe  
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[MOMSFORLIBERTY-BUNCOMBE](#) (click link for webpage)

**Moms for Liberty Buncombe works to protect Academic Excellence, Protect Parental Rights and Eliminate Ideologic Initiatives.**

*"Liberty is the right to choose. Freedom is the result of the right choice."  
 Jules Renard*