

Michael R. Bromwich
202 429 8167
mbromwich@steptoe.com

Steptoe

1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036-1795
202 429 3000 main
www.steptoel.com

September 9, 2025

BY EMAIL

Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce
United States House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Statements During September 9, 2025, Hearing

Dear Chairman Walberg:

We represent the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in connection with the requests for information and documents contained in your letter of August 7, 2025, and on other matters.

We are very troubled about the personal and uninformed attacks you made against AFT President Randi Weingarten during this morning's hearing entitled, "Unmasking Union Antisemitism." Apparently in response to a reference to Ms. Weingarten contained in Dr. Joseph A. McCartin's prepared statement, as an example of a prominent Jewish union leader, you stated, "Randi Weingarten has not said anything – anything – about antisemitism, so to raise her name raises my ire." Putting aside the unseemliness of a Congressional committee chairman attacking a person not present to defend herself, nothing could be further from the truth.

Ms. Weingarten has spoken out frequently on antisemitism, going back well over a decade, and has done so repeatedly in recent weeks and months. Less than a month ago, Ms. Weingarten published an opinion piece in *The Hill*, entitled "*To fight antisemitism in schools, help teachers, don't blame them.*"

<https://thehill.com/opinion/education/5469233-teachers-unions-fight-antisemitism/>.

A month earlier, in July, she published a piece in *Newsweek*, which was reprinted in the

Jewish Council for Public Affairs, entitled “To Fight Antisemitism and Preserve Democracy, Educators and the Jewish Community Must Partner Closely.” <https://jewishpublicaffairs.org/news/newsweek-op-ed-to-fight-antisemitism-and-preserve-democracy-educators-and-the-jewish-community-must-partner-closely/>. In April 2024, she co-authored an op-ed in *USA Today* with a New York City schoolteacher entitled “My students rioted after I said ‘I stand with Israel.’ Here’s how we came together after.” <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2024/04/15/israel-sign-protest-new-york-high-school-free-speech/73274354007/>. On July 2025, speaking to more than 1,000 AFT members at the Washington Hilton, Ms. Weingarten delivered a speech addressing various forms of bigotry, including antisemitism, and stating, “Hate has no place in our schools.” <https://youtu.be/pKAbk9Bdu28?si=fMTkZA87Zsrxp9K9&t=1447> We could provide you with countless additional examples along the same lines.

In addition, Ms. Weingarten has been tweeting about antisemitism going back at least as far as 2011, when you were a freshman member of Congress. The sheer volume and duration of Ms. Weingarten’s statements condemning antisemitism make your comment at this morning’s hearing indefensible and incomprehensible. If not for the protections you enjoy by virtue of the Constitution’s Speech and Debate Clause, Ms. Weingarten would have a powerful defamation case against you.

The statements are made more egregious by the fact that you are presiding over an investigation of Ms. Weingarten and the AFT, the contours of which are set forth in your August 17 letter. As you know, we have already complained to you about your apparent authorization of a press release on that date that announced the findings of the investigation on the same day it began. Given your reckless statements and your clear prejudice against Ms. Weingarten and the union she leads, we ask that you consider recusing yourself from that investigation.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bromwich

cc: Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Workforce

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions

Rick Allen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions