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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

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February 22, 2024

### **VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

Akiea Gross  
Founder  
Woke Kindergarten, LLC  
20494 SummerSong Lane  
Germantown, MD 20874

Ms. Gross:

I write in regard to reports that Glassbrook Elementary, a low-performing school in Hayward, California, has spent \$250,000 in federal funds on your program, Woke Kindergarten.<sup>1</sup> This is extremely concerning, as instead of focusing on providing “all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and...clos[ing] educational achievement gaps,” teachers at Glassbrook have reportedly stated that the Woke Kindergarten program is “rooted in progressive politics and activism with anti-police, anti-capitalism and anti-Israel messages mixed in with the goal of making schools safe, joyful and supportive for all children.”<sup>2</sup>

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) has jurisdiction over matters involving education and a responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent effectively in accordance with the spirit of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Accordingly, please respond to the following questions, on a question-by-question basis, no later than March 7, 2024.

1. Please produce a list of all public schools that have contracted with your company since January 1, 2020 that are also recipients of federal school improvement funding. Please produce all related records, including all signed contracts.
2. Please produce copies of all materials used in connection with your program, Woke Kindergarten, including but not limited to lesson plans, assignments, electronic recordings, handouts, and other visual aids.
3. Please describe the purpose of Woke Kindergarten, including the “woke wonderings” section on Woke Kindergarten’s website.

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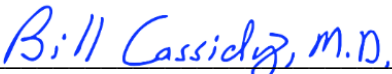
<sup>1</sup> Jill Tucker, This Bay Area school district spent \$250,000 on Woke K program. Test scores fell even further, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE (Feb. 3, 2024), <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/woke-kindergarten-glassbrook-hayward-18635504.php>.

<sup>2</sup> ESEA §1001, 20 USC § 6301; Jill Tucker, This Bay Area school district spent \$250,000 on Woke K program. Test scores fell even further, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE (Feb. 3, 2024), <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/woke-kindergarten-glassbrook-hayward-18635504.php>.

4. Is it accurate that Woke Kindergarten promotes “anti-police, anti-capitalism, and anti-Israel messages?” Please explain.
5. Please provide the research demonstrating that Woke Kindergarten’s program is evidence-based as defined under the ESEA.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor, and Pensions