



*A Union of Professionals*

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the nation's two leading teachers' organizations, representing more than 4 million educators nationwide, we request that you immediately rescind the appointment of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) to serve on the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Conspiracy theories do not belong in our schools. Hate, racism and anti-Semitism do not belong in our schools. Bullying and harassment do not belong in our schools. Greene has trafficked in all of these heinous activities. She has therefore disqualified herself from serving on the committee that plays a crucial role in the teaching and learning of America's children and in ensuring their safe learning environments.

Greene's record speaks for itself. She has spread the dangerous QAnon conspiracy theory about the presidential election; she has spread anti-Semitic and racist conspiracy theories; she spreads misinformation about COVID-19; she spreads conspiracy theories about voter fraud; and she has downplayed school shootings, calling them false flags and dishonoring the memory of students and educators who have been murdered or wounded in these attacks. Her behavior should not be rewarded with an assignment on the education committee. It should be roundly condemned by all members who have the honor and privilege of representing Americans in Congress.

There is no better example of Greene's destructive and outrageous behavior than her harassment of Stoneman Douglas High School shooting survivor David Hogg. Greene was so proud of haranguing Hogg that she posted video of it, pleased with herself for being an *adult* who traumatized an already victimized *teenager*. It is one thing to disagree with the advocacy that Parkland, Fla., students chose to engage in, but quite another to castigate and threaten them for it. How much more can society traumatize victims of violence? And this was a U.S. representative.

We would also like to point out that today begins National Gun Violence Survivors Week, a time when we reflect not only on the lives lost in shootings across our country, but also on the steps

we must take to make communities safer. Greene's presence on the education committee is an insult to every victim and survivor of a shooting, especially the many that have taken place at schools and on campuses.

Our members teach students that facts matter. In an era when disinformation runs rampant on social media and fringe news sites, it is more important than ever to uphold the standards we set for students and our expectations of them, including the ability to engage in respectful debate. Perpetuating conspiracy theories and advocating violence has no place in the civil discourse we promote in classrooms, and it should have no place in Congress.

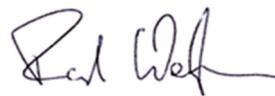
The fact is, if any educator harassed students and called horrifying shootings false flags, there would be serious consequences. There should absolutely be consequences for a member of Congress, as well.

For these reasons, we ask that you remove Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene from the education committee. She does not have the judgment, empathy or wisdom to be entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing legislation to provide the secure, supportive learning environments that students deserve. The eyes of millions of educators, parents and students are on you, and we sincerely hope that you will lead by taking this bold and decisive action immediately.

Sincerely,



Rebecca S. Pringle  
President  
National Education Association



Randi Weingarten  
President  
American Federation of Teachers