

From: [Andrea Messina](#)
To: [Beverly Slough](#)
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and Public Schools
Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021 2:37:32 PM

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Thx. Viola didn't write that letter. Comms staff did.

If they were truly concerned about safety, it would not have been accompanied by a press release and media interviews.

They made it about NSBA , not safety.

A

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 2, 2021, at 9:36 AM, Beverly Slough
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Fyi
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: viola garcia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 7:58:34 AM
To: Beverly Slough <[REDACTED]>; Steven Chapman
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: John Halkias <[REDACTED]>; Chip Slaven <[REDACTED]>;
2021-2022 Board of Directors <[REDACTED]>; Elena Kukanova –
Carpenter <[REDACTED]>; Francisco Negron <[REDACTED]>; Jane
Mellow <[REDACTED]>; Renee Joe <[REDACTED]>; Kimberly Muse
<[REDACTED]>; Patricia Boyd-King <[REDACTED]>; Jason Amos
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: NSBA Letter to President Biden on Threats School Boards Members and
Public Schools

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Good morning NSBA Directors,

First of all, I want to thank you for your active engagement and recent responses. These are troubling times. NSBA has been engaged with the White House and the Department of Education on these and other issues related to the pandemic for several weeks now. The pandemic and our heightened political environment have created a lot of tension in our society.

School boards have been under the spotlight since the start of the pandemic, but it's risen to a new level over the last few weeks. We felt compelled to say something when we started hearing about the threats, harassment, and acts of intimidation at school board meetings.

What we have witnessed are coordinated efforts, *playbooks*, for creating chaos at school board meetings and in local communities. Letters across states are very similar and these incidents are beyond random acts. What we are now seeing is a pattern of threats and violence occurring across state lines and via online platforms, which is why we need the federal government's assistance.

Disagreements are one thing, even among us, but what we're seeing is rising to a dangerous level in some instances. We also want the public to understand that these disruptions are interfering with school boards' most important business—ensuring the health, safety, and education of our students. These disruptions are interfering with the REAL issues facing school boards—ensuring we have enough good teachers for all students; serving students with disabilities; and making sure all kids have access to their internet in their homes. That's what school board members care about. It's why we decided to run for school board. We want to get back to the business of making sure that every student is preparing for a successful future.

I know, and we all acknowledge that email as a mode of communication about these serious matters does not optimize our ability to work through this together. I will follow up with the officers and Chip to coordinate next steps for all of us.

Regards, stay well and stay safe,

Viola