

## So-Called “Grassroots” Right-Wing Extremist Groups Pushing Anti-Critical Race Theory Activism Are Tied To Prominent Mainstream Conservatives

The Anti-Critical Race Theory “movement” hinges on an alliance between billionaire funders and right-wing extremists. Billionaires have invested in the movement to push for school choice and education privatization, while right-wing extremists and their white nationalist allies see critical race theory as an opportunity to push a [backlash](#) to America’s recent racial reckoning and promote the theory that whites are being undermined and ‘replaced’ in their own country.

Out of this framework, 8 notable groups with national scopes and impact have recently sprouted. All of them have ties to either mainstream Conservative figures, such as The Heritage Foundation, [Dr. Ben Carson](#), and Leonard Leo, or connections to billionaire donors, such as the Koch Brothers. These groups paint a picture of the current climate of the opponents of “critical race theory” and the power of the longstanding alliance between the billionaire class and the extreme right.

**Fight For Schools** is a PAC run by [Ian Prior](#), a former Trump [Department Of Justice](#) official and who is closely tied to the right wing conspiracy rag [Human Events](#). Fight for schools has descended on the contentious critical race theory debate in [Loudoun County](#). Its public fundraising efforts reveal that the group is funded by the **Ben Carson-led group, 1776 Action** and one local major [GOP Donor](#), Sharon Virts. The group has also been enlisted as a major ally of [right-wing, Trump backed](#) Virginia gubernatorial candidate [Glenn Youngkin](#), who has relied on them for fundraising and filling out his campaign rallies. The group has [coordinated](#) with the **Heritage Foundation** to run events.

**Parents Against Critical Theory** is another Loudoun County [based](#) group in part organized by **Fight For Schools’** [Ian Prior](#) and local [Dell subsidiary employee](#), [Scott Mineo](#). Mineo posted [racist, Islamophobic rhetoric](#) on Facebook and promoted the idea that white supremacist rallies were a [left-wing hoax](#). The group has [coordinated](#) with the **Heritage Foundation** to run events.

**1776 Action** is a well-funded [anti-critical race theory group](#) that claims to support activists at the local level. Notably, it is a rebrand of the former fundraising group headed by **Ben Carson** that came under fire for enriching its staff while donating less than 3% of its proceeds to its [stated mission](#). 1776 Action has supported both of [Ian Prior’s](#) groups, Parents Against Critical Theory and Fight for Schools, which received a \$10,000 donation from the group.

**1776 Project PAC**, a national PAC which received [national media attention](#) was founded by right wing activist **Ryan Girdusky**. Girdusky co-wrote a book with former [Trump](#), current [Matt Gaetz](#) advisor [Harlan Hill](#). Girdusky notably implied in a [tweet](#) that the [Great Replacement Theory](#), a violent white nationalist credo, was valid. Recently, Donald Trump Jr. has authored fundraising emails on [behalf of the group](#) which compared Critical Race Theory supporters to the Taliban.

**Free To Learn Coalition** is a group running a massive, national anti-critical race theory [ad campaign](#). The group was founded and is likely bankrolled by major dark money group [Judicial Crisis Network](#). Judicial Crisis Network has spent millions to load the Supreme Court with right wing judges and is “[effectively controlled](#)” by Trump’s former judicial advisor and Federalist Society executive **Leonard Leo**.

**No Left Turn** is a [prominent national anti-critical race theory group](#) that has funded and mobilized right wing parents nationwide to challenge anti-racism initiatives on the local level. The group’s founder promotes many [conspiracy theories](#) and frequently compares anti-racism to [genocide](#) and [Nazism](#). It’s board features [David Clarke](#), a [Trump ally](#) who told right wingers to “[have a plan](#)” before they shoot racial justice protestors and the [founder](#) of a recognized [hate group](#) that has led charges to criminalize homosexuality internationally. Notably, No Left Turn coordinated with the **Heritage Foundation** and [state and local politicians to pass anti-critical race theory legislation](#).

**Parents Defending Education** is a prominent national [anti-critical race theory](#) group that uses [legal action](#) and civil rights lawsuits to fight anti-racism programs in schools. While being described as “grassroots,” the group is

tied to the Koch Network via founder [Nicole Neily](#), who has worked at numerous **Koch operations** including a “grassroots” group that fought anti-Trump bias at the [collegiate level](#). The group also employs a prominent consultant for a billionaire funded right-wing education reform blog.

**Critical Race Theory Advocates Often Push For Moving Children Into Private Or Home Schooling, A Goal Of The Conservative Education Reform Movement**

**The Conservative Education Reform Movement Has Long Pushed Privatization Of Education And Has Been Bankrolled By Billionaires**

**Education Reform Which Takes The Form School Privatization—including Programs Such As “School Choice” And Charter Schools—Has Major Political Backing From Billionaires And Conservatives.**

“Welcome to the Democrats’ school choice wars. For the last three decades, charter schools have attracted bipartisan love, amassing an unlikely—and unwieldy—amalgam of supporters along the way: GOP free marketeers, civil rights advocates, “third way” Democrats, and hedge fund billionaires. But in an era of fierce political partisanship, that coalition is now unraveling.” [The Nation, [12/30/19](#)]

**Former Trump Administration Education Secretary Betsy DeVos Was A Notable Proponent Of School Privation And Other Avenues Of Conservative School Reform.** “We now have an education secretary, Betsy DeVos, who is admittedly doing everything she can to promote alternatives to traditional publicly funded education. Many state legislatures are helping her with programs using taxpayer money to fund private and religious education. Supporters of America’s public education system are concerned about what they say is an assault on the most important civic institution in the country.” [Washington Post, [5/30/18](#)]

**Billionaires Such As Eli Broad, Bill Gates, And The Walton Family Were Strong Proponents Of Education Privatization And Heavily Funded Groups Pushing That Agenda.** “Broad is a bit of a scrapper who has described himself as a “sore winner.” He has backed his version of education reform in many ways, from pushing a plan to put half of Los Angeles students in charters schools, to making big money pushes for his favored LAUSD board candidates. His foundation disperses money to many of the big ed reform groups, and in 2014 he approached former Arne Duncan aide Peter Cunningham about creating a sort of war room rapid response press outfit to get the reformer point of view out there (Education Post was the result). The Broad Foundation has been one of the “Big Three” funders of education reform, just behind the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation. The foundation aims to “advance entrepreneurship” for education, favoring business models over traditional democratic ones; they literally wrote a handbook for closing down and replacing public schools.” [Forbes, [12/08/19](#)]

**Ian Prior, Executive Director Of Fight For Schools And Founder of Parents Against Critical Theory Is One Of The Most Prominent Organizers Of The Anti-Critical Race Theory Fight In Virginia And Has Close Ties To White Supremacist Collaborators As Well As Mainstream Conservatives—His Group Is Funded By The Ben Carson-Led Group 1776 Action And Tied To The Heritage Foundation**

**Ian Prior, A Prominent Right-Wing Agitator And Former Trump Administration Official With Ties To Right-Wing Extremists Is Pushing Anti-Critical Race Theory Propaganda Through His Group, Fight For Schools...**

**Prior Was Former Trump Administration Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ Deputy Director Of Public Affairs.** “Previously he was Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the Department of Justice. Appointed to that role in March 2017, he served through July 2018. At DOJ, he helped provide strategic public affairs guidance to the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General and Associate Attorney General. Ian also served as the primary spokesman and media strategist for the Department’s National Security Division and Antitrust Division.” [Unsilenced Majority, [Accessed 6/29/21](#)]

**Prior Was Top Communications Official For The National Republican Congressional Committee During The 2016 Election Cycle And Has Also Worked For American Crossroads And McConnell's Senate Leadership Fund.** What Fox personalities tend not to mention is Prior's long career as a Republican political operative. He worked in top communications roles during the 2016 election cycle for the National Republican Congressional Committee, the Karl Rove-fronted super PAC American Crossroads, and the Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC that works to elect Republican senators which was founded by allies of Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. He then spent a year and a half as a top public affairs aide to Trump's first attorney general, Jeff Sessions." [Media Matters, [6/17/21](#)]

**Prior Spoke At Heritage Foundation's 2021 Annual Resource Bank, An Strategic Conference.**

"Heritage's Resource Bank Meeting convenes the best minds from think tanks across the country, activist and community leaders effecting change in the states, elected officials leading the way forward, new media voices bringing insight and clarity to the current debates, and rising young leaders who inspire." [Heritage Foundation, [6/02/21](#)]

**Fox News Hosted Ian Prior To Discuss Critical Race Theory At Least 15 Times, Often Framing Him As A Concerned Parent.** "Fox has hosted Ian Prior at least 15 times to discuss various 'critical race theory' stories, according to Media Matters' database of weekday cable news guests. Fox hosts and anchors have given him various introductions including 'Loudoun County parent'; a 'father' who 'has gone from concerned parent, like many of you, to legal activist'; and 'a Loudoun County, Virginia, parent and founder of FightForSchools.com.'" [Media Matters, [6/17/21](#)]

**Prior Also Created An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Called Parents Against Critical Theory With Scott Mineo, Who Posted White Supremacist Conspiracies And Floated The Idea That The Charlottesville White Supremacist March Was A Left Wing Operation**

**Prior And White Supremacist Scott Mineo Lead The Anti-Critical Race Theory Group, Parents Against Critical Theory**

**Parents Against Critical Theory Is A Group Founded To Oppose Critical Race Theory In Loudoun County Public Schools...** [Facebook, Accessed [6/28/21](#)]

**... Ian Prior Is Listed As The Organizer Of Parents Against Critical Theory On The Group's Articles Of Incorporation.** [Virginia State Corporation Commission Clerk's Information System, [Accessed 6/29/21](#)]

**On Parents Against Critical Theory's Website, Scott Mineo Is Listed As The "Founder" Of Parents Against Critical Theory.** [ParentsAgainstCRT.com, [Accessed 6/28/21](#)]

**Mineo Called Critical Race Theory "Anti-White."** "'It's anti-white,' said Scott Mineo, a parent who launched an advocacy group, Parents Against Critical Theory. 'It takes a negative position against the United States.'" [Reuters, [6/23/21](#)]

**Prior To Founding Parents Against Critical Theory Mineo Ran A Facebook Account Called Vito Malara.** "While Mineo insisted that his opposition to critical race theory does not make him a 'white supremacist,' Facebook posts he appears to have authored under the username 'Vito Malara' prior to the launch of Parents Against Critical Theory repeatedly express views that are anti-Black and anti-Muslim. Mineo acknowledged authorship of some of the posts, and did not deny that he is the owner of the 'Vito Malara' account, which remains active." [Raw Story, [5/11/21](#)]

**While Posting As Vito Malara, Mineo Promoted Ideas That Parallel That Of The Great Replacement Theory Claiming That Muslims Refuse To Assimilate Into White Cultures And Worship A Pedophile.** "At least two posts made the claim that Muslims refuse to assimilate when they immigrate to the United States and western Europe. 'My son's girlfriend is Muslim,' Mineo said, when asked about one of the posts. 'Whatever.' In another 2017 post, 'Vito Malara' wrote: 'These people will not assimilate, they only assassinate. How can

anyone defend an ideology, not a religion, where the brainwashed murdering losers worship a man, a pedophile named Mohammad who married a 6-year-old girl.” [Raw Story, [5/11/21](#)]

**While Posting As Vito Malara, Mineo Floated The Conspiracy Theory That The Charlottesville White Supremacy Rally Was Actually Planned By Left Wing Operatives.** “Posting on the ‘Vito Malara’ account, Mineo has previously floated a conspiracy theory on Facebook that Unite the Right was contrived by shadow left-wing operatives. Sharing a Breitbart story that notes that Unite the Right organizer Jason Kessler at one time supported President Obama, ‘Vito Malara’ wrote, ‘There’s always more to the story when Liberals get all bent out of shape.’” [Rawstory, [6/24/21](#)]

### **Parents Against Critical Theory Organized An Anti-Critical Race Theory Rally In Loudoun County Alongside Heritage Action For America**

**Parents Against Critical Race Theory Are Organizing Recalls For School Board Members In Fairfax, Loudoun, And Prince William Counties In Virginia.** [ParentsAgainstCRT.com, [6/27/21](#)]

**Parents Against Critical Theory And Heritage Action For America Organized An Anti-Critical Race Theory Rally In Loudoun County, Virginia That Was Attended by Ian Prior.** “Rivera, 55, was one of the many concerned Loudoun County parents, teachers, and other locals who attended the Saturday rally outside the Loudoun County Government Center to protest the teaching of critical race theory in the county’s public schools. Rally attendees heard from a variety of speakers, who included concerned teachers and parents as well as Ian Prior, executive director of the group Fight for Schools, and Mike Gonzalez, a senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation. [...] A new group called Parents Against Critical Theory, working with Heritage Action for America, organized the rally. Heritage Action is the partner organization of The Heritage Foundation, and The Daily Signal is Heritage’s multimedia news outlet.” [Daily Signal, [6/14/21](#)]

### **Trump Backed, Right-Wing Virginia Gubernatorial Candidate Glenn Youngkin Has Turned To Fight For Schools To Help His Fundraising And Campaign Efforts.**

**Republican Virginia Gubernatorial Candidate Glenn Youngkin Attended A Fundraiser And Rally Hosted By Fight For Schools In September 2021.** “Youngkin attended a fundraiser and rally last month for Fight for Schools, and his campaign has at times asked Prior’s group for help building crowds for the Republican’s campaign events. The rally it helped sponsor last weekend drew about 100 people in front of the Loudoun County Supervisors Building in the leafy town of Leesburg to protest ‘divisive educational programs being advanced in our very own backyards.’” [Associated Press, [10/06/21](#)]

**Youngkin Also Reportedly Asked Prior And Fight For Schools For Help Building Crowds For His Campaign Events.** “Youngkin attended a fundraiser and rally last month for Fight for Schools, and his campaign has at times asked Prior’s group for help building crowds for the Republican’s campaign events. The rally it helped sponsor last weekend drew about 100 people in front of the Loudoun County Supervisors Building in the leafy town of Leesburg to protest ‘divisive educational programs being advanced in our very own backyards.’” [Associated Press, [10/06/21](#)]

**In February 2021 Youngkin Called For A “Citizen” “Election Integrity Oversight” Task Force And Declined To Say If He Believed Joe Biden Legitimately Won The 2020 Election.** “Youngkin has been stressing the need for greater ballot security on the campaign trail and this month sent out a text message inviting ‘concerned, law-abiding citizens’ to join him in forming an ‘election integrity task force.’ Asked at a campaign appearance in Lynchburg this month if that policy focus stems from a belief that Biden stole the election, Youngkin answered, ‘No.’ But he declined to say if he believes Biden was legitimately elected.” [Washington Post, [2/22/21](#)]

**Trump Has Enthusiastically Backed Youngkin’s Campaigns.** “The disgraced former president has [enthusiastically backed](#) Youngkin, thereby tying the businessman to the MAGA movement and providing an easy target for McAuliffe. Simply because Youngkin is not as unhinged as Amanda Chase does not mean he is a viable gubernatorial candidate.” [Washington Post, [2/22/21](#)]



## **Fight For Schools And Parents Against Critical Race Theory Received Funding From The Ben Carson-Led Organization 1776 Action And Local GOP Megadonor Sharon Virts.**

**September 2021: 1776 Action Contributed \$10,000 To FightforSchools.com.** [Virginia Department of Elections, [accessed 10/14/21](#)]

### **Parents Against Critical Race Theory Announced They Would Collaborate With 1776 Action.**

“PACT reportedly announced a collaboration with 1776 Action, a 501(c)(4) organization created “to counter critical race theory and the 1619 Project” and ‘pursue the type of educational vision outlined by former President Trump at the end of his term.’” [Media Matters, [6/24/21](#)]

### **1776 Action Is A Well-Funded Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Launching National Ad Campaigns...**

**1776 Action Is A 501(c)4 Group That Uses A National Presence To Encourage Right Wing Parents To Launch Anti Critical Race Theory Actions At The Local Level.** “The group known as 1776 Action is rolling out a series of efforts this week to support New Hampshire's legislation banning critical race theory. Adam Waldeck, the group's president, told Fox News his group plans to also be active in Loudoun County, Virginia, which has seen a clash between disgruntled parents and schools pursuing the controversial ideology. Last month's launch of 1776 Action, a 501(c)4 tax-exempt organization, augmented a growing resistance to diversity trainings and curricula in U.S. institutions. Like Parents Defending Education, which Fox News reported on last week, 1776 Action intends to empower parents to challenge these ideas at the local level.” [Fox News, [4/08/21](#)]

- **1776 Action Launched A Multimedia Campaign To Oppose Critical Race Theory In New Hampshire.** “A national organization opposed to the spread of Critical Race Theory and promoting what it calls our nation’s founding principles of liberty and equality has launched a local multi-media campaign in New Hampshire on behalf of HB 544, the so-called ‘divisive content’ bill. The organization, 1776 Action, has the support of national conservative activists like former HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson and former U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.” [NH Journal, [4/05/21](#)]

**1776 Action Grew Out Of The Trump Administration’s Attempt To Push Anti-Anti-Racist Historical Narratives By Releasing Documents Compelling School Districts To Push A Right Wing, Inaccurate, Brand Of American History.** “Released on Martin Luther King Jr. Day this year—Trump’s penultimate day in office—the 1776 Commission’s report did not have any power to compel school districts to do anything. Nor was it especially concerned with historical accuracy; an American Historical Association statement signed by 47 academic organizations condemned it as ‘a simplistic interpretation that relies on falsehoods, inaccuracies, omissions, and misleading statements’ and ‘a screed against a half-century of historical scholarship.’ [...] Adam Waldeck was one of the people who saw Biden’s decision to nix the 1776 Commission as “a major slap in the face.” Waldeck, a 36-year-old former South Carolina state director and coalitions director for Newt Gingrich, works for a new issue-advocacy group called 1776 Action” [Time, [6/24/21](#)]

### **1776 Action Is A Rebrand Of The American Legacy Fund, A Fundraising Nonprofit Run By Former Trump Administration Official Ben Carson That Was Embroiled In Controversy After Enriching Its Founders Instead Of Pursing Its Mission**

**1776 Action Is A Rebrand Of The Nonprofit American Legacy Fund.** [Virginia State Corporation Commission Clerk’s Information System, [Accessed 7/02/21](#)]

**As Of July 2, 2021 1776 Action Is Not In Good Standing In Its Home State Of Virginia.** [Virginia State Corporation Commission Clerk’s Information System, [Accessed 7/02/21](#)]

**Former Trump HUD Secretary Ben Carson Assumed Control Of Fundraising Group American Legacy Center To Work On Supreme Court Fights In 2016.** “Retired neurosurgeon and former Republican presidential hopeful Ben Carson confirmed that he turned down a position in Donald Trump’s cabinet. ‘That is true, and I’d like to take a moment to explain why,’ he wrote in an email today. The email was a fundraising plea for the American Legacy Center, which is likely a more lucrative deal for Carson, as opposed to government service. Carson explained that he would be working on a Supreme Court-oriented project for the group and then asked supporters for their email addresses and donations from \$25 to \$5,000.” [Black Christin News, [11/17/16](#)]

**American Legacy Center Initially Used Newt Gingrich As Its Face And Came Under Fire For Enriching Its Staff Rather Than Pursing Its Political Mission—Donating Less Than 3% Of Its Raised Funds To Political Candidates When Carson Joined.** “The PAC was originally launched in 2010 and used former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, another member of Trump’s inner circle, as its front man. Early reporting on the PAC suggested that it was used to enrich Gingrich’s business allies, including a number of political vendors, while donations, many of which were less than \$200, weren’t making it to candidates. During the 2012 cycle, the group made \$515,321 from donations and only doled out \$9,000 to Republican candidates, which accounts for just 1.7 percent. Donations included \$250 to Rep. Michele Bachmann and \$2,500 to eventual Republican nominee Mitt Romney and \$2,500 to Gingrich, who also ran for president that year.[...] When Carson joined on in January 2014, the group had donated less than 3 percent of contributions to candidates in 2013. By the end of 2014, American Legacy PAC had donated \$132,900 to conservative candidates, while receipts totaled \$7,991,435, according to Open Secrets. Again, much of the money was going to businesses and vendors in the Gingrich orbit.” [Black Christin News, [11/17/16](#)]

### **Sharon Virts, A Northern Virginia GOP Megadonor, Gave Fight For Schools \$10,000**

**June 2021: Sharon Virts \$10,000 To FightforSchools.com.** [Virginia Department of Elections, [accessed 10/14/21](#)]

**Virts Runs A Loudoun County Based Federal Contracting Business To Immigration And National Security Sectors.** “FCi Federal, founded in Leesburg by Sharon D. Virts and now headquartered in Ashburn, provides essential services for immigration and national security including adjudication support, eligibility verification and business process outsourcing services for federal government customers. Virts started the company in 1991 out of her mother’s basement as a 29-year-old. FCi Federal now has 5,000 employees and subcontractors with a projected revenue of more than \$200 million this year. The transaction is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close within 45 business days, after which FCi would become a business unit of PAE. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.” [Loudon Now, [4/03/17](#)]

**Virts Has Donated Over \$133,000 To Major GOP Candidates And Committees Including Donald Trump, The National Republican Congressional Committee, And Barbara Comstock Since 2015.** [[Sharon Virts Appendix](#)]

**Prior Is Also A Senior Official At An “Anti-Cancel Culture” Group Called The Unsilenced Majority, Which Has Ties To Neo-Nazi Collaborator And Pizzagate Promoter Jack Posobeic, And Capitol Riot Organizer Charlie Kirk**

### **Prior Is A Senior Counsel And Spokesperson For Unsilenced Majority-- A So-Called “Grassroots” Right Wing Group That Opposed “Cancel Culture In All Forms**

**Prior Is A Senior Counsel And Spokesperson For Unsilenced Majority.** “Prior currently runs his own political communications consulting firm, is co-founder of a political newsletter, and is a senior counsel and spokesperson for Unsilenced Majority, ‘a grassroots conservative advocacy organization opposed to cancel culture in all forms’ helmed by other Republican and right-wing media figures.” [Media Matters, [6/17/21](#)]

**Unsilenced Majority Is A “Grassroots” Right Wing Group That Opposed “Cancel Culture In All Forms.** “Unsilenced Majority is a grassroots conservative advocacy organization opposed to cancel culture in all forms.

We strongly believe that corporate censorship, thought-policing and politically motivated blacklists and boycotts are having a corrosive effect on our country and will ultimately lead to a less free world. We also believe that freedom of speech and diversity of thought are fundamental bedrocks of a free society and should always be protected and celebrated.” [Media Matters, [6/17/21](#)]

**Unsilenced Majority Senior Leadership Includes The Owner Of The Publication “Human Events,” A Right-Wing Blog Whose Leadership Features Neo Nazi Collaborator And Pizzagate Promoter Jack Posobeic, And Capitol Riot Organizer Charlie Kirk As Prominent Employees**

**Unsilenced Majority Also Employees Will Chamberlain, The Owner Of Publication Human Events, As A Senior Official.** “Will Chamberlain is the owner and editor-in-chief of Human Events. Prior to relaunching Human Events, Will worked as an attorney at the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC, focusing on class action litigation. Before that, he was an associate at Quinn, Emanuel, Urquhart & Sullivan LLP in Los Angeles, where he practiced complex commercial litigation. Will graduated from University of the Pacific in 2010 with a B.A. in Economics, and received his J.D., magna cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center in 2015. Will is an active member of the State Bar of California and the District of Columbia Bar.” [Unsilenced Majority, [Accessed 6/29/21](#)]

**Human Events Employs Prominent Pizza-Gate Promoter And Conspiracy Jack Posobiec As Its Senior Editor And Charlie Kirk, Whose Organization Was At The Heart Of The Capitol Riot, As A Writer.** [Human Events, [Accessed 6/29/21](#)]

**Jack Posobiec Is A MAGA Promoter And Neo-Nazi Collaborator Who Participated In Stop The Steal Events.** “It was the second day of the “Stop the Steal” demonstrations in Harrisburg, all organized by far-right operative and influencer Scott Presler, who does not live in Pennsylvania. Presler, who used to work for the anti-Muslim hate group Act for America, directed the 60 or so die-hard Trump supporters in a series of chants — ‘Audit the vote!’— and had them pose for group photos [...] A short time later, the crowd stood silently behind Presler as he raised his phone and appeared to conduct a video interview with Jack Posobiec, the neo-Nazi collaborator and prominent MAGA propagandist. ‘Awesome, thank you One America News,’ Presler said at the end of the interview, referring to the far-right network for which Posobiec works. [HuffPost, 11/06/20]

**Posobeic Has Collaborated And Promoted The Work Of Neo-Fascists, Pro-Hitler Commentators, White Nationalists, And Anti-Semites.** “Far-right commentator Jack Posobiec is a current host on One America News Network (OANN), an information network widely known to distort facts and which has been embraced by President Trump. This investigation has found that Posobiec — a Trump favorite — has collaborated with white supremacists, neo-fascists and anti-Semites for years, while producing propaganda that Trump and his inner circle have publicly celebrated.” [Southern Poverty Law Center, [Accessed 7/01/21](#)]

**Posobeic Was One Of The Most Prominent Promoters Of Pizzagate, A QAnon Predecessor That Alleged That Hillary Clinton Was Running A Child Sex Dungeon Out Of A DC Pizza Shop.** “This isn’t the first time Posobiec, a former naval intelligence officer, has played a lead role in promoting hoaxes. He was one of the most prominent promoters of the Pizzagate conspiracy theory, that held that the Washington D.C. pizzeria Comet Ping Pong was really a front for a child sex dungeon run by Hillary Clinton. He even went to the restaurant to find out ‘what’s really going on’ there.” [Daily Beast, 6/03/20]

**Human Events Employs Charlie Kirk, Whose Organization Was At The Heart Of The January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol Riot, As A Featured Writer.** [Human Events, [Accessed 6/29/21](#)]

**Turning Point Action, An Arm Of Turning Point USA Led By Kirk, Was Listed As An Organizer Of January 6<sup>th</sup>’s Washington DC Rally.** “Charlie Kirk, a firebrand conservative activist and staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, is preparing to unveil a nonprofit that will allow his organization to campaign against Democrats during the 2020 election season. CNBC discovered Kirk’s new organization, called Turning Point Action, after reviewing an embedded donor link that shows the soon-to-be-finalized group targeting Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn.” [CNBC, [5/20/19](#); Documented, [1/11/21](#)]

- **Turning Point USA Is A Conservative Group Focused Which Seeks To Organize College Aged Conservatives.** “In 2012, Kirk founded Turning Point USA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit grassroots organization that encourages conservative college students to rally for causes such as free market policies. The [Internal Revenue Service](#) prohibits 501(c)(3)s to participate, either directly or indirectly, in political campaigns.” [CNBC, [5/20/19](#)]

**Turning Point USA And Turning Point Action Founder And Leader Charlie Kirk Prominently Promoted The More Than 80 Buses Thy Organized To Bring Supporters To The Rally.** [Twitter Archive, [1/04/21](#)]

**Anti-Critical Race Theory 1776 Project PAC Was Founded By Trump-World Affiliate Ryan Girdusky, Who Defended The White Supremacist The Great Replacement Theory And Is Connected To A Shady New York Political Actor.**

**1776 Project PAC Was Created To Elect School Board Members Nationwide Who Are “Committed To Abolishing Critical Race Theory”—The Group’s Talking Points Overlap With White Supremacist Messaging**

**The 1776 Project PAC Was Launched By Ryan Girdusky, Who Claims Its Focus Is On Texas, Pennsylvania, And Ohio—Swing States With School Board Elections In 2021.** “Ryan Girdusky, an author and political consultant, launched the 1776 Project PAC last month to support school board candidates nationwide who are concerned about the penetration of critical race theory into their schools. The PAC is focusing on states with school board elections this year, such as Texas, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.” [The Washington Examiner, [6/17/21](#)]

**The 1776 Project PAC Is a Federal PAC Created To Elect School Board Members Nationwide Who Promote “Patriotism And Pride In American History” And Are “Committed To Abolishing Critical Race Theory.** “Promoting Patriotism and Pride in American History We are a political action committee dedicated to electing school board members nationwide who want to reform our public education system by promoting patriotism and pride in American history. We are committed to abolishing critical race theory and ‘The 1619 Project’ from the public-school curriculum.” [1776ProjectPac.com, [Accessed 7/01/21](#)]

**The 1776 Project PAC Accused Promoters Of Critical Race Theory Of Promoting “Positions [That] Are Incredibly Hostile To White People [And] Western Civilization.”** “Their positions are incredibly hostile to white people, Western civilization, classical liberalism, the enlightenment, the founding of America, and capitalism. Supporters of critical race theory believe it is the responsibility of everyone to evaluate their own internalized racism. Non-white members of society who disagree with them are accused of internalizing white supremacy and accepting the status quo.” [1776ProjectPac.com, [Accessed 7/01/21](#)]

**Ryan Girdusky, Founder Of 1776 Project PAC, Is Closely Connected To Harlan Hill Helped Congressman Matt Gaetz Wage A PR Campaign Against His Reported Links To Sex Trafficking**

**Girdusky Described Critical Race Theory As Promoting “Anti-White And Anti-Asian Racism.”** “Former President Barack Obama gave an interview to CNN’s Anderson Cooper and insisted that conservatives shouldn’t fight over it because there are more pressing issues than institutions promoting critical race theories’ anti-White and anti-Asian racism.” [RyanGirdusky.Com, [Accessed 7/01/21](#)]

**Girdusky Co-Wrote A Book With Right Wing Figure Harlan Hill.** [RyanGirdusky.Com, [Accessed 7/01/21](#)]

**Harlan Hill Heads The Logan Circle Group, A Consulting Firm Representing Rep. Matt Gaetz (R – FL) After Facing Federal Charges For Sex Trafficking.** “Embattled Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., has enlisted a small Washington public relations firm to handle a developing scandal that threatens to end his career, involving multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and possible sex trafficking. The firm in question, the Logan Circle Group, consists largely of lower-level Trump allies and is headed by Harlan Hill, a MAGA-world



character who thus far has failed to keep his promise to eat his own shoe on a live stream. On Thursday night, The Daily Beast reported that Gaetz allegedly sent \$900 in payment to several young women via the cash application Venmo, by first sending the money to Seminole County Tax Collector Joel Greenberg in May 2018. The Beast further noted that Hill's PR firm has taken up the case of cleaning up Gaetz's mess." [Salon, [4/09/21](#)]

**Hill Claimed To Be A Member Of The Trump 2020 Campaign's Advisory Board.** "Hill—whose Twitter bio identifies him as a member of the Trump campaign's advisory board, and who has appeared on video with campaign official and presidential daughter-in-law Lara Trump—claims erroneously on his bio to be a Fox News 'commentator.'" [Daily Beast, [10/08/20](#)]

**Harlan Hill Was Banned From Appearing On Fox News For Calling Kamala Harris "An Insufferable Lying B\*tch" After Appearing On The Network Nearly 50 Times Since 2017.** "One pundit has been dropped from any future bookings at Fox News due to a Tweet. Harlan Hill, who is reportedly a political consultant and claims to work with the 2020 Trump campaign, tweeted, 'Kamala Harris comes off as such an insufferable lying b\*tch. Sorry, it's just true.' According to The Daily Beast, Hill has now been banned from Fox News. A spokesperson stated, 'We have no intention of booking him as a guest on any of our platforms.' While he is not paid by Fox News, Hill has done 'at least 47 guest appearances on Fox News or Fox Business programs since Dec. 13, 2017,' The Daily Beast reported." [BET, [10/09/20](#)]

**Donald Trump Jr. Authored Fundraising Emails For The 1776 Project PAC Comparing Critical Race Theory To The Taliban.**

**Donald Trump Jr. Authored Fundraising Emails For The 1776 Project PAC Comparing Critical Race Theory Supporters To The Taliban.** "The white right's attacks on 'critical race theory' are already escalating to include both explicit and implied threats of physical violence. A recent fundraising email from Donald Trump Jr. on behalf of the '1776 Project PAC' offers an ominous preview of the terrorism and other political violence that is being encouraged against those who dare to teach and study 'critical race theory.'" [...] 'I'm worried about the people right here in our own backyards who share the same hatred for our country as the terrorists hiding in the caves of Afghanistan.'" [Salon, [8/20/21](#)]

**The Free To Learn Coalition Is An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Bankrolled By The Powerful Right-Wing Dark Money Group Judicial Crisis Network, Which Is Effectively Run By Prominent Conservative Activist Leonard Leo**

**The Free To Learn Coalition, Which Launched A Seven Figure Anti-Critical Race Theory Ad-Buy, Is A Front For A Dark Money Right Wing Group Effectively Controlled By Trump's Judicial Advisor, Judicial Crisis Network**

**The Free To Learn Coalition Launched A Seven Figure Ad Buy To Promote Anti-Critical Race Theory Ideology In Key States Such As New York, Virginia, And Arizona.** "Today, the Free to Learn Coalition launched with an initial seven-figure national ad campaign of well over \$1 million advocating for classrooms independent from political influence. The ad will air nationally on cable and in local markets in New York, Virginia, and Arizona, as schools across the nation have become increasingly political while the U.S. falls behind other nations in basic skills like reading, writing, math, and science. The ad specifically calls out Grace Church School in New York, Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, and the Peoria Unified School District in Arizona." [Associated Press, [6/24/21](#)]

**The Free To Learn Coalition Is Registered As A Nonstock Corporation Name Of The Concord Fund, Listing Gary Marx As Its President.** [Virginia State Corporation Commission Clerk's Information System, [Accessed 7/02/21](#)]

**The Concord Fund Is Also Known As The Judicial Crisis Network.** "The Concord Fund (CF), a right-wing dark money group also known as the Judicial Crisis Network (JCN), recently poured nearly \$2.1 million into the

Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), according to a filing made to the IRS this week and reviewed by Documented.” [Documented, [10/16/20](#)]

**Judicial Crisis Network Is “Effectively Controlled” By Trump Judicial Advisor Leonard Leo, A Longtime Executive At The Federalist Society** “JCN is closely tied to Trump’s top judicial adviser Leonard Leo, a longtime executive at the Federalist Society, the conservative lawyers’ network based in Washington, DC. The Daily Beast reported in 2018 that Leo ‘effectively controls the Judicial Crisis Network.’ Since 2017, the group has reported paying more than \$1.4 million to a Virginia LLC linked to Leo.” [Jacobin, [9/29/20](#)]

**The Judicial Crisis Network Spent \$22 Million To Push Trump Supreme Court Nominees Brett Kavanaugh And Neil Gorsuch And \$1 Million To The Republican State Leadership Committee—The GOP’s “State Elections Arm.”** “The Judicial Crisis Network, a group dedicated to elevating conservative judges, spent a combined \$22 million to promote the confirmations of Gorsuch and Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, and contributed \$1 million of the roughly \$8.2 million the Republican State Leadership Committee raised through June 30 of this year, according to a report the RSLC filed last week. The RSLC then transferred about \$1.2 million to its Judicial Fairness Initiative — nearly all of what the state judicial campaign group raised all year.” [Jacob Fischler and Ilana Marcus, “[Conservative judicial group is top donor to GOP state elections arm,](#)” *Roll Call*, 08/06/19]

- **HEADLINE: “Conservative judicial group is top donor to GOP state elections arm”** [Jacob Fischler and Ilana Marcus, “[Conservative judicial group is top donor to GOP state elections arm,](#)” *Roll Call*, 08/06/19]

**Judicial Crisis Network Spent As Much As \$27 Million To Block President Obama’s Supreme Court Nominees.** “JCN previously spent as much as \$27 million to block President Barack Obama’s 2016 Supreme Court pick and place conservative jurists Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh on the high court. As the Daily Poster previously reported, JCN received \$15.9 million from a single anonymous donor between July 2018 and June 2019, the tax period covering the Kavanaugh fight.” [Jacobin, [9/29/20](#)]

**Judicial Crisis Network Is The “Darkest Of Dark Money,” With Its Donors Being Completely Unknown—Which Is Unusual Even For Groups Not Required To Disclose Their Donors.** “JCN is the darkest of dark money groups. While nonprofits aren’t required to publicly reveal their donors, some contributor names generally drip out over time — usually in tax returns filed by other nonprofits or in voluntary political contribution disclosures by big corporations. That hasn’t happened with JCN.” [Jacobin, [9/29/20](#)]

**No Left Turn, A National Anti-Critical Race Theory Group That Also Coordinated With The Heritage Foundation, Includes A Trump Ally Who Told Right Wing Activists To “Have A Plan” Before They Shoot Black Lives Matter Activists And The Founder Of A Recognized Hate Group On Its Board.**

**No Left Turn Is An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Boosted By Tucker Carlson That Has Coordinated With The Heritage Foundation And State Politicians To Fight Anti-Racism Teaching Via Legislative Action.**

**No Left Turn Is An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Boosted By Tucker Carlson And Fox News** “So Fishbein moved her children to private school and started a group to advocate against anti-racist teaching. She called it No Left Turn in Education. ‘The schools have been hijacked,’ she said in an interview. ‘Our kids are captive audiences. And they think they can do whatever they want with our kids.’ Fishbein’s endeavor received a significant boost in September, when she appeared on Tucker Carlson’s prime-time Fox News show. By the next day, No Left Turn’s Facebook page had shot up from fewer than 200 followers to over 30,000. The group now has 30 chapters in 23 states, a rapid expansion Fishbein credits to Carlson’s show.” [NBC News, [6/15/21](#)]

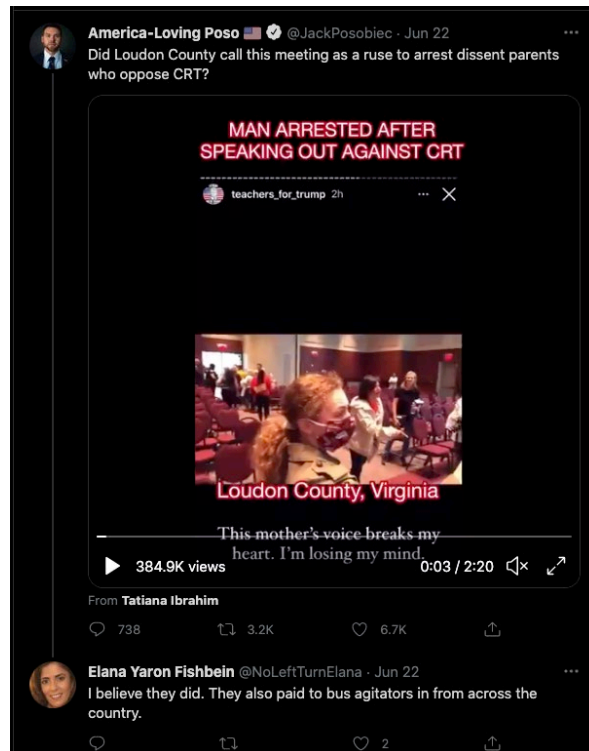
**No Left Turn Founder Elana Fishbein Said She Attended A Heritage Foundation Briefing With State Lawmakers From Numerous States To Discuss Passing Legislation To Block Critical Race Theory.**

“Fishbein said she took part in a private briefing hosted by the Heritage Foundation in May that featured lawmakers from Idaho, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Texas and other states to discuss model legislation to block critical race theory. Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Oklahoma and Tennessee have already advanced some form of a restriction, and 15 states have legislation pending. The Heritage Foundation declined to comment.” [NBC News, [6/15/21](#)]

## No Left Turn And Its Founder Have Frequently Compared Critical Race Theory Scholars To Nazis

Fishbein Retweeted A Group That Claimed That “Explicit Pronouns” Were “The New Nazi Armband.”  
Twitter, [7/03/21](#)

Following A Loudoun County Virginia School Board Meeting Where Anti Critical Race Theory Protestors Were Arrested For Causing An Unlawful Disturbance, Fishbein Claimed The School Board Bussed In “Outside Agitators” And Held The Meeting As A “Ruse” To Arrest Critical Race Theory Opponents.



[Twitter, [6/22/21](#)]

**Fishbein’s Rhetoric Resembles That Of Right Wing Extremists Who Claimed That The Capitol Riot Was Perpetrated By Left Wing Infiltrators.** “In one of the ultimate don’t-believe-your-eyes moments of the Trump era, these Republicans have retreated to the ranks of misinformation, claiming it was Black Lives Matter protesters and far-left groups like antifa who stormed the Capitol — in spite of the pro-Trump flags and QAnon symbology in the crowd. Others have argued that the attack was no worse than the rioting and looting in cities during the Black Lives Matter movement, often exaggerating the unrest last summer while minimizing a mob’s attempt to overturn an election.” [New York Times, [3/01/21](#)]

**Fishbein Said That White Supremacy Did Not Pose A Threat To Jewish People, Instead Focusing On The “Extreme Left.”**



[Twitter, [6/14/21](#)]

**No Left Turn In Education Compared Anti-Racism Education Efforts To “The Killing Fields” And “Pol Pot’s Cambodia.”** [Facebook, [9/06/20](#)]

**No Left Turn In Education Compared Anti-Racist Author Ibram Kendi To Hitler.** [Facebook, [9/30/20](#)]

**Fishbein Said Critical Race Theory Was “Brainwashing” Children And Turning Them Into “Brownshirts.”** “What is happening is what we know from other Marxist communist totalitarian regimes. You have to get the kids and brainwash them as early as possible if you want to transform your society. And here there is no doubt that’s the tool, getting to our kids, brainwashing them, indoctrinating them, and making them your brownshirt. In this case it’s literally making them your brownshirt to march to your order.” [Media Matters, [6/22/21](#)]

**No Left Turn’s Board Of Advisors Includes Sharon Slater, A Founder And Leader Of A Recognized Hate Group Who Called LGBTQ Rights “Fictitious.”**

**No Left Turn’s Board Of Advisors Features Sharon Slater, President Of Family Watch International.** [No Left Turn, [Accessed 7/03/21](#)]

**Slater Is The Founder And President Of Family Watch International, A Southern Poverty Law Center Recognized Hate Group Which Promotes Extremely Anti-LGBTQ Ideology.** “Founded in 1999 as Global Helping to Advance Women (Global HAWC), Family Watch International (FWI) is based in Gilbert, Arizona, and claims to be a nonprofit international educational organization. FWI is under the leadership of founder and longtime anti-LGBT and anti-choice activist Sharon Slater, who is Mormon.” [SPLC, [Accessed 7/03/21](#)]

**Slater And Her Organization Claim That LGBTQ Individuals Are Prone To Disease, Are “Most Likely Prone To Pedophilia And Couch Their Hateful Views In Narrative That They Are Protecting Children.** “Sharon Slater touts herself as an ‘internationally recognized leader in the effort to promote and protect the family and family value.’ Her attacks on LGBT individuals — who, she repeatedly insists, are prone to disease, ‘significantly more promiscuous,’ and ‘more likely to engage in pedophilia’ — are presented under the guise of protecting children, who she claims are most at risk of being unwittingly indoctrinated into the sinister ‘global sexual rights revolution’ that seeks to undermine the nuclear family, unleash sexual predation on children, undermine religious values, and sow ‘gender confusion.’” [SPLC, [Accessed 7/03/21](#)]

**No Left Turn Board Member David Clarke Is A Trump Ally Who Opposed The Removal Of Confederate Statues, Compared Black Lives Matter To The KKK, And Told Right Wing Protestors To “Have A Plan” To Legally Justify Shooting Protestors.**

**David Clarke Is A Board Member Of No Left Turn.** “Milwaukee County Sheriff (Ret.) David A. Clarke Jr. is a law enforcement executive with 38-plus years of experience. A lifelong resident of the City of Milwaukee, his public service career began in 1978, at the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), where he served 24



distinguished years. During his eleven years as a Patrol Officer, he received meritorious citations for felony arrests” [No Left Turn, [Accessed 7/03/21](#)]

**Clarke Was Heavily Considered For A Senior Trump Administration Post.** “The controversial Milwaukee County sheriff, David Clarke, who has compared Black Lives Matter to the Ku Klux Klan, has said he is joining the Trump administration as a point person between federal government and local and state law enforcement. Clarke broke the news of his appointment on the local Wisconsin radio station 1130 WISN Radio. The move brings to an end a long courtship between Trump and the sheriff, who acted as a surrogate for the Republican nominee on the campaign trail last year and was one of few African American speakers at the Republican national convention, at which he proclaimed ‘blue lives matter’ in homage to police officers.” [The Guardian, [5/17/17](#)]

**Following An Incident Where A Right Wing Activist Fatally Shot Two Black Lives Matters Protest, Clarke ‘Refused To [Condemn] It And Advised Urged Right Wing Activists To “Have A Plan” To Legally Justify Shooting Protestors.** “I don’t advocate for some of the stuff that’s starting to happen, but I am certainly done ... I am through with condemning it. I’m done with that,’ Clarke, a one-time contender for a high-ranking position within the Trump administration, explained during a guest-hosting stint on a Milwaukee-area talk radio program last week. [...] Clarke’s casual suggestion that would-be vigilantes ‘have a plan’ is the latest development in a growing narrative within conservative circles that Rittenhouse’s killing of two protesters during social justice demonstrations in Kenosha was not only justified, but somehow commendable. Still, it’s a dangerous, and utterly irresponsible escalation to make the leap from absolving someone’s past actions to aiding in another’s potential next steps — particularly given President Trump’s tacit endorsement of Rittenhouse’s killings.” [Mic, [9/03/20](#)]

**Parents Defending Education Is An AstroTurf Koch Network Group That Files Civil Rights Complaints Against School Districts For Activities They Dub “Critical Race Theory.”**

**Parents Defending Education Bills Itself As A “Grassroots” Group That Files Civil Rights Complaints Against School Districts For Activities They Dub As Critical Race Theory.**

**Parents Defending Education Is An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group That Was Founded In January 2021 And Launched Publicly In March 2021.** “the Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism (FAIR) and Parents Defending Education, both of which formed in January and launched publicly in March. Parents Defending Education invites people to anonymously submit material they find concerning” [Time, [6/24/21](#)]

**Parents Defending Education Encourages Parents To Submit Tips They Then Use To File Civil Rights Complaints Against School Districts Pursing Activities They Dub As Upholding Critical Race Theory.** “the Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism (FAIR) and Parents Defending Education, both of which formed in January and launched publicly in March. Parents Defending Education invites people to anonymously submit material they find concerning, says Erika Sanzi, its director of outreach—links to slide decks from teacher trainings; screenshots of assignments; emails that suggest “activism in the classroom.” The group then uses the tip line to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, as it did based on one school district’s invite to a Zoom meeting that was described, in the aftermath of the March 16 shootings at Atlanta-area spas, as ‘a safe space for our Asian/Asian-American and Students of Color, \*not\* for students who identify only as White.” [Time, [6/24/21](#)]

**Parents Defending Education Positions Itself As A “Grassroots” Group, Allowing It To Intervene On Any Local Lawsuit Filed By Anti-Critical Race Theory Parents Or Parties.** “Movant, Parents Defendant Education, is Plaintiffs’ counterpart. Movant is a nationwide, nonpartisan, grassroots organization, whose members are primarily parents of school-aged children. Its mission is to prevent—through advocacy, disclosure, and, if necessary, litigation—the politicization of K-12 education. Movant has many members with children who are currently enrolled in, or will apply for, the City’s G&T programs or selective schools, including the following:” [Memorandum Of Law In Support Of Parents Defending Education’s Motion To Intervene As A Defendant, Parents Defending Education, [3/22/21](#)]

## The Leaders Of Parents Defending Education Are Closely Tied To Right Wing Billionaires, Notably The Koch Brothers Network

### Parents Defending Education Founder And President Nicole Neily Has Worked For A Variety Of Koch Funded Projects, Including A Group Focused On Fighting Conservative Bias At Universities.

**Nicole Neily Is The Founder And President Of Parents Defending Education.** [DefendingEd.org, [Accessed 7/06/21](#)]

**Neily Is A Former Staffer At The Cato Institute.** “Nicole Neily is the president & founder of Parents Defending Education. She is also the president of Speech First, a national campus free speech organization, and has worked at the Independent Women’s Forum and the Cato Institute.” [DefendingEd.org, [Accessed 7/06/21](#)]

- **The Cato Institute Is A Prominent Libertarian Think Tank In Large Part Funded By Charles Koch.** “Neily, the founder of Parents Defending Education, is a former staffer at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank co-founded by prominent Republican donor Charles Koch, and the president of Speech First, a nonprofit organization that supports free speech on campus through litigation and advocacy” [Time, [6/24/21](#)]
- **The Cato Institute Was Is Key In The Fight To Institute The Koch Brother’s Right Wing And Libertarian Agenda.** “The Cato Institute is a key thinktank co-founded by the Kochs and supporting much of the brothers’ rightwing and libertarian agenda, including lowering or abolishing taxes and the privatization of numerous government agencies and social welfare programs. In 2012, the Kochs sued Cato after some of its libertarian positions supporting same-sex marriage and drug decriminalization angered conservatives.” [The Guardian, [8/23/19](#)]

**Neily Is Also The President Of Speech First.** “Nicole Neily is the president of Speech First. Nicole grew up passionate about civil liberties thanks to her family history; her grandparents, both Japanese-American citizens born in California, met in the Manzanar War Relocation Center during WWII. In college, Nicole joined the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) student group and passed out “know your rights” cards to over 8,000 sorority members while serving as vice president of risk management for the University of Illinois’ Panhellenic Council, the largest Greek system in the country at the time.” [Speech First, [Accessed 7/06/21](#)]

- **Speech First Positions Itself As A Student Led, Grassroots Group But Is Staffed And Organized By Koch Network Operators And Former Bush Administration Lawyers.** “From statements like this one, it’s easy to assume Speech First is a grassroots, student-led organization. [...] But Speech First looks like something else: a highly professional astro-turfing campaign, with a board of former Bush administration lawyers and longtime affiliates of the Koch family. The group is new to the campus culture wars: It incorporated in December and launched in February. But it has already received endorsements from the Department of Justice, which filed a statement of interest supporting Speech First in the Michigan case, stating in a subsequent press release that “freedom of speech and expression on the American campus are under attack.” [The Nation, [7/09/18](#)]
- **Speech First Pursues Lawsuits Against Universities For Supposedly Anti-Conservative Behavior Which In Practice Has Involved Suing University Officials Who Respond To White Supremacist Leafleting And Racist Graffiti On Campus.** “The group also wants Michigan to prevent its ‘Bias Response Teams,’ made up of staff who report and respond to discrimination claims such as white-supremacist leafleting and racist graffiti, from doing their job. The ‘mere threat of being investigated’ by the teams, the organization says, causes students ‘to err on the side of caution before expressing an opinion that could cause someone to take offense.’” [The Nation, [7/09/18](#)]

**Neily Also Worked For The Independent Women’s Forum, A Conservative Nonprofit With Notable Koch Funding Via Dark Money Groups.** “Neily herself is a senior fellow and former executive director at the Independent Women’s Forum (IWF), a conservative non-profit. IWF has received Koch funds directly, and its backers include DonorsTrust and Donors Capital Fund, nonprofits whose biggest donors are the Koch brothers. A Mother Jones investigation called DonorsTrust ‘the dark-money ATM of the conservative movement[.]’” [The Nation, [7/09/18](#)]

**Parents Defending Education Director Of Outreach Erika Sanzi Worked For A Pro Education Privatization Blog Funded By Billionaires**

**Erika Sanzi Is The Outreach Director Of Parents Defending Education And Is Described As A Former Writer.** [DefendingEd.org, [Accessed 7/06/21](#)]

**Sanzi Served As A Highly Paid Consultant For “Education Post” From At 2016 To At Least 2018, Making Nearly \$400,000 In That Time.**

Year	Group Name	Contractor Name	Contractor Title	Compensation
<a href="#">2016</a>	Results In Education Foundation (AKA Education Post)	Erika Sanzi	Communications & Outreach	\$120,000
<a href="#">2017</a>	Results In Education Foundation (AKA Education Post)	Erika Sanzi	Communications & Outreach	\$130,872
<a href="#">2018</a>	Results In Education Foundation (AKA Education Post)	Erika Sanzi	Communications & Outreach	\$121,025
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$371,897</b>

**Education Post Was Founded By Peter Cunningham.** “Peter Cunningham is the founder of Education Post and serves on its board. He served as Assistant Secretary for communications and outreach in the U.S. Department of Education during the Obama administration’s first term. Prior to that he worked with Arne Duncan when he was CEO of the Chicago Public Schools.” [Education Post, [Accessed 7/08/21](#)]

**In An Interview, Cunningham Said He Was Asked By Billionaire Eli Broad Because He Felt His Views On Education Privatization Were “Being Piled On And That No One Would Come To Their Defense.”** “When I was asked to create this organization—it wasn’t my idea; I was initially approached by Broad—it was specifically because a lot of reform leaders felt like they were being piled on and that no one would come to their defense. They said somebody just needs to help right the ship here. There was a broad feeling that the anti-reform community was very effective at piling on and that no one was organizing that on our side. There was unequivocally a call to create a community of voices that would rise to the defense of people pushing reform who felt like they were isolated and alone.” [Have You Heard Blog, [5/01/15](#)]

**Eli Broad Was A Strong Proponent Of Education Privatization, Literally Writing A Handbook On How To Close Down And Replace Public Schools.** “Broad is a bit of a scrapper who has described himself as a “sore winner.” He has backed his version of education reform in many ways, from pushing a plan to put half of Los Angeles students in charters schools, to making big money pushes for his favored LAUSD board candidates. His foundation disperses money to many of the big ed reform groups, and in 2014 he approached former Arne Duncan aide Peter Cunningham about creating a sort of war room rapid response press outfit to get the reformer point of view out there (Education Post was the result). The Broad Foundation has been one of the “Big Three” funders of education reform, just behind the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation. The foundation aims to “advance entrepreneurship” for education, favoring business models over traditional democratic ones; they literally wrote a handbook for closing down and replacing public schools.” [Forbes, [12/08/19](#)]

**Sharon Virts Donation Appendix**

<b>Donor Name</b>	<b>Recipient Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contribution Amount</b>
Virts, Sharon D.	Comstock Victory Fund 2018	3/16/17	\$50,000.00
Virts, Sharon D.	NRCC	3/16/17	\$33,900.00
Virts, Sharon D.	NRCC	3/16/17	\$10,700.00
Virts, Sharon	WINRED	9/25/20	\$2,800.00
Virts, Sharon	Four More Years Pac	9/25/20	\$2,800.00
Virts, Sharon	Donald J. Trump For President, Inc.	9/25/20	\$2,800.00
Virts, Sharon	WINRED	9/25/20	\$2,800.00
Virts, Sharon	Andrews For Congress	9/25/20	\$2,800.00
Virts, Sharon	Omari Faulkner For Virginia	12/31/19	\$2,800.00
Virts, Sharon	WINRED	12/31/19	\$2,800.00
Virts, Sharon D.	Comstock For Congress	3/16/17	\$2,700.00
Virts, Sharon D.	Comstock For Congress	3/16/17	\$2,700.00
Virts, Sharon D Ms.	Comstock For Congress	6/21/16	\$2,700.00
Virts, Sharon D Ms.	Comstock For Congress	6/21/16	\$2,700.00
Virts, Sharon	Team Graham, Inc.	10/4/20	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon	Winred	10/4/20	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon	Gade For Virginia, Inc.	9/25/20	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon	Team Graham, Inc.	9/25/20	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon	Rob Jones For Congress	4/21/20	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon	WINRED	4/21/20	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon D Ms.	Comstock For Congress	7/30/16	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon D Ms.	Comstock For Congress	6/21/16	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon	Republican National Committee	2/2/16	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon D Ms.	Comstock For Congress	5/6/15	\$1,000.00
Virts, Sharon D Ms.	Comstock For Congress	12/8/15	\$500.00



Virts, Sharon D Ms.	Comstock For Congress	5/6/15	\$500.00
Virts, Sharon	Winred	10/4/20	\$50.00
Virts, Sharon	Winred	10/4/20	\$50.00
Virts, Sharon	Team Graham, Inc.	10/4/20	\$5.00
Virts, Sharon	WINRED	10/4/20	\$5.00
Virts, Sharon D Ms.	Comstock For Congress	6/22/16	-\$2,700.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$133,410.00</b>

[FEC, [Accessed 10/13/21](#)]

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