

MAJORITY MEMBERS:

TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN, *Chairman*

JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA
GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA
GLENN GROTHMAN, WISCONSIN
ELISE M. STEFANIK, NEW YORK
RICK W. ALLEN, GEORGIA
JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY
BURGESS OWENS, UTAH
LISA C. MCCLAIN, MICHIGAN
MARY E. MILLER, ILLINOIS
JULIA LETLOW, LOUISIANA
KEVIN KILEY, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL RULLI, OHIO
JAMES C. MOYLAN, GUAM
ROBERT F. ONDER, JR., MISSOURI
RYAN MACKENZIE, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER, WASHINGTON
MARK HARRIS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK B. MESSMER, INDIANA
RANDY FINE, FLORIDA



COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2176 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MINORITY MEMBERS:

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA,
Ranking Member

JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
FREDERICA S. WILSON, FLORIDA
SUZANNE BONAMICI, OREGON
MARK TAKANO, CALIFORNIA
ALMA S. ADAMS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK DESAULNIER, CALIFORNIA
DONALD NORCROSS, NEW JERSEY
LUCY MCBATH, GEORGIA
JAHANA HAYES, CONNECTICUT
ILHAN OMAR, MINNESOTA
HALEY STEVENS, MICHIGAN
GREG CASAR, TEXAS
SUMMER L. LEE, PENNSYLVANIA
JOHN MANNION, NEW YORK
ADELITA GRIJALVA, ARIZONA

July 7, 2026

Randi Weingarten
President
American Federation of Teachers
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Weingarten:

The Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) is investigating allegations concerning the American Federation of Teachers' (AFT) use of workers' dues in connection with the production, promotion, and publication of your book, *Why Fascists Fear Teachers: Public Education and the Future of Democracy* ("the book"). The prospect that rank-and-file educators' dues may have financed a project that generated private financial gain raises serious questions about transparency, accountability, and fiduciary responsibility within one of the nation's largest labor organizations.

Recent reporting and analyses of AFT's federal labor disclosures raise questions regarding whether union funds, personnel, contractors, and other resources were utilized to support the development and promotion of your book while you simultaneously retained a portion of the resulting royalties and proceeds.¹ According to these reports, AFT expended substantial funds on consultants, legal services, publication-related expenses, fact-checking services, photography, and other activities connected to the book. The reports further allege that certain royalty payments were directed to an entity identified as Teachers Want What Kids Need, LLC, while public statements regarding the distribution of proceeds suggested that funds would benefit the union and affiliated charitable organizations. These allegations, if accurate, raise significant questions regarding transparency, fiduciary obligations to union members, and the use of member dues.

¹ Carl Campanile, *AFT Boss Randi Weingarten Tapped Union Resources Worth Over \$1.4M to Write 'Manifesto' Book*, N.Y. POST (May 19, 2026), <https://nypost.com/2026/05/19/us-news/aft-boss-randi-weingarten-tapped-union-resources-worth-over-1-4m-to-write-manifesto-book/>; Aaron Withe, *AFT Members Paid for Weingarten's Book. She Kept the Royalties*, WASH. EXAMINER (June 2, 2026), <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/op-ed/4589679/aft-members-paid-weingarten-book-she-kept-royalties/>.

The Committee recognizes that you have publicly disputed aspects of these allegations and have stated that the project was undertaken in partnership with AFT and that proceeds are shared between you and the union.² Nevertheless, the available information warrants further review to determine the extent to which union resources were devoted to a project from which you may have personally benefited financially.

To assist the Committee in its investigatory responsibilities, please provide the following information by no later than July 21, 2026:

1. Documents sufficient to show all AFT expenditures related to the writing, editing, fact-checking, legal review, publication, marketing, promotion, distribution, and tour activities associated with the book.
2. All contracts, agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other arrangements between AFT and outside parties related to the book.
3. Documents sufficient to show all work performed by AFT employees in connection with the book, including their titles, estimated hours worked, and compensation attributable to such activities.
4. Documents sufficient to show all revenues, advances, royalties, licensing payments, speaking fees, or other proceeds generated by the book.
5. Documents sufficient to show the distribution of all proceeds generated by the book, including payments made to the following:
 - a. AFT;
 - b. The AFT Educational Foundation;
 - c. The AFT Disaster Relief Fund;
 - d. Teachers Want What Kids Need, LLC; and
 - e. Any other person or entity.
6. All documents concerning the formation, ownership, governance, and purpose of Teachers Want What Kids Need, LLC, including documents sufficient to show any ownership interests held by you or your immediate family members.
7. Documents sufficient to identify all travel, lodging, security, communications, and promotional expenses paid by AFT that were associated with events promoting the book.
8. Documents sufficient to show policies governing the use of union resources for projects that may generate personal income for AFT officers or employees.

² Carl Campanile, *supra* note 1 (“Weingarten told The Post ‘...I am glad to have been in full partnership with the union on this project — and any and all proceeds from the book are shared equally...’”).

Randi Weingarten

July 7, 2026

Page 3

9. All communications between AFT leadership and the publisher, literary agents, consultants, or outside vendors regarding funding, promotion, or allocation of proceeds related to the book.

The Committee has jurisdiction over “labor generally,” as set forth in House Rule X, and over the *Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act*.³ Your responses to these requests will assist the Committee in determining whether any legislative changes are warranted and what they should be, such as strengthening disclosure requirements so that union members have a better understanding of what activities employees of the union perform and how their membership dues are spent by leadership..⁴ The Committee also has a responsibility to ensure that organizations representing American workers operate transparently and that union members receive a full accounting of how their dues are utilized. The allegations surrounding the financing and proceeds relating to the book warrant careful examination, and the Committee expects your full cooperation. If you have any questions about these requests, please contact Committee staff at 202-225-4527.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg
Chairman



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

Enclosure

³ RULES OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Rule X cl. 1(e)(6) (119th Cong.) (2025), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/rules.house.gov/files/documents/houserules119thupdated.pdf>; RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS, Rule 3(a) (Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions has jurisdiction over *Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act*), <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/ED/ED00/20250115/117778/HMTG-119-ED00-20250115-SD002.pdf>.

⁴ See *Watkins v. United States*, 354 U.S. 178, 187 (1957) (“It is unquestionably the duty of all citizens to cooperate with the Congress in its efforts to obtain the facts needed for intelligent legislative action.”).

Responding to Committee Document Requests

1. The American Federation of Teachers' (AFT) response to questions and request(s) should be answered or provided in a separate document and not included inside a narrative response.
2. In complying with this request, you should produce all responsive documents that are in AFT's possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or other past or present employees of AFT, or a representative acting on your behalf. Your response should also produce documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that AFT has a right to copy or to which you have access, or that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party.
3. Records, documents, data, or information that have been requested and/or are related to underlying requests should not be destroyed, modified, removed, transferred or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee on Education and Workforce (the "Committee").
4. If any entity, organization, or individual denoted in this request has been, or is also known by any other name than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
5. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., email, CD, memory stick, or thumb drive) in lieu of paper productions. To the extent responses are provided in paper form, any documents that are stapled, clipped, or otherwise fastened together should not be separated. Documents produced in response to a request should be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, or identifying markers with which they were associated when this request was issued.
6. Regardless of format, documents produced pursuant to this request should be produced in the order in which they appear in your files and should not be rearranged. Indicate the office or division and person from whose files each document was produced.
7. Regardless of format, documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production and a total page count for the entire production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder is produced, each CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box, or folder should contain an index describing its contents. Documents produced in electronic format should also be identified and indexed electronically.
8. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - (a) The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - (b) Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.

(c) If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.

9. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
10. When you produce documents, you should individually identify the paragraph, question number, or request number in the Committee's request to which the documents respond.
11. It shall not be a basis for refusal to produce documents that any other person or entity—either inside or outside of AFT—also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents.
12. If any of the requested information is only reasonably available in machine-readable form (such as on a computer server, hard drive, or computer backup tape), AFT's staff should consult with the Committee staff to determine the appropriate format in which to produce the information.
13. If compliance with any request cannot be made in full, compliance shall be made to the extent possible and shall include a written explanation of why full compliance is not possible.
14. If AFT does not expect to produce all documents responsive to a request by the date requested, AFT's staff shall consult with the Committee as soon as it is known AFT cannot meet the deadline, but no later than 24 hours before the due date to explain:
 - (a) what will be provided by the due date;
 - (b) why AFT believes certain materials cannot be produced by the due date; and
 - (c) AFT's proposed timeline for providing any omitted information.
15. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, or has been placed into the possession, custody, or control of any third party and cannot be provided in response to this request, you should:
 - (a) identify the document, including its date, author, subject, and recipients;
 - (b) explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control, or was placed in the possession, custody, or control of a third party;
 - (c) state how the document was disposed of;
 - (d) identify the name, current address, and telephone number of the person who currently has possession, custody, or control over the document;
 - (e) state the date of disposition; and
 - (f) identify the name, current address, and telephone number of each person who authorized said disposition or who had or has knowledge of said disposition.

16. If any document responsive to this request cannot be located, identify the document and describe with particularity the efforts made to locate the document and the specific reason for its disappearance, destruction, or unavailability.
17. In the event that a document or portion of a document is withheld on the basis of alleged privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document or redaction:
 - (a) Bates number(s);
 - (b) the alleged privilege asserted and the grounds therefor;
 - (c) the type of document;
 - (d) the general subject matter;
 - (e) any other description necessary to identify the document;
 - (f) the date, author, and addressee; and
 - (g) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other.

If a claimed privilege applies to only a portion of any document, that portion only should be withheld and the remainder of the document should be produced.

18. Any objections or claims of privilege are waived if you fail to provide an explanation of why full compliance is not possible and a log identifying with specificity the ground(s) for withholding each withheld document prior to the request compliance date.
19. In complying with the request, be apprised that (unless otherwise determined by the Committee) the Committee does not recognize: any purported non-disclosure privileges associated with the common law including, but not limited to, the deliberative-process privilege, the attorney-client privilege, and attorney work product protections; any purported privileges or protections from disclosure under the *Freedom of Information Act*; or any purported contractual privileges, such as non-disclosure agreements.
20. Any assertion by a request recipient of any such non-constitutional legal bases for withholding documents or other materials, for refusing to answer any deposition question, or for refusing to provide hearing testimony, shall be of no legal force and effect and shall not provide a justification for such withholding or refusal, unless and only to the extent that the Committee (or the chair of the Committee, if authorized) has consented to recognize the assertion as valid.
21. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document, communication, meeting, or other event is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or other AFT employees, or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, you should produce all documents that would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.
22. The time period covered by this request is included in the attached request. To the extent a time period is not specified, produce relevant documents from January 1, 2023, to the present.

23. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data, or information, not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date, shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery. Such submission shall include an explanation as to why the information was not produced originally.
24. If physical documents are to be delivered, documents should be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2176 of the Rayburn House Office Building during Committee office hours (9am-5pm, unless other arrangements are made) and signed by a member of the staff upon delivery.
25. Upon completion of the document production, AFT's written response should include a written certification, signed by President Randi Weingarten or her designee, stating that:
 - (a) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control that reasonably could contain responsive documents; and
 - (b) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

Definitions

1. The term "document" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, inter-office and intra-office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape, or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term "documents in your possession, custody or control" means documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents,

employees, or representatives acting on your behalf; documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access; and/or documents that have been placed in the possession, custody, or control of any third party.

3. The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, email, regular mail, telexes, releases, or otherwise.
4. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.
5. The terms “person” or “persons” mean natural persons, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, subsidiaries, divisions, departments, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business, or government entities, and all subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, or other units thereof.
6. The term “identify,” when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual’s complete name and title; and (b) the individual’s business address and phone number.
7. The term “referring or relating,” with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.
8. The term “entity” includes any lawful association, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, institution, or individual that has the legal capacity to: (1) enter into agreements and contracts; (2) assume obligations; (3) incur and pay debts; (4) sue and be sued in its own right; and (5) be accountable for illegal activities.
9. The term “privilege” includes, but is not limited to, any claim that a document either may or must be withheld from production pursuant to any statute, rule, or regulation.
10. The term “employee” means agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, de facto employee, joint adventurer, loaned employee, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, contract employee, contractor, or any other type of service provider.
11. The term “AFT” means AFT, including (i) its predecessors, successors, wholly or partly owned direct or indirect subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, local unions, boards, and joint ventures and (ii) any current, past, or future partners, officers, directors, employees, representatives, or agents of any of the above entities.