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August 21, 2025

Ms. Rebecca S. Pringle
President
National Education Association
1201 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Pringle:

The Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) is investigating antisemitism at the National Education Association (NEA), which represents more than three million public school educators and administrators across the United States.¹ Specifically, the Committee is gravely concerned about antisemitic content in the NEA's 2025 handbook and the NEA Representative Assembly's vote in July 2025 to ban materials by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).² This investigation will aid the Committee in considering whether potential legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination within labor unions and to combat antisemitism in federally funded schools, are needed.

The NEA's 2025 handbook, which outlines the union's goals and priorities for the upcoming year, contains passages and priorities that are hostile towards the Jewish people. For example, the handbook states that the union will celebrate International Holocaust Remembrance Day by "recognizing more than 12 million victims of the Holocaust from different faiths, ethnicities, races, political beliefs, genders, and gender identification, abilities/disabilities, and other targeted characteristics."³ But this obscures the fact that Jews were the primary target of the Holocaust, with six million Jews having been murdered at the hands of the Nazis.

¹ National Education Association, <https://www.nea.org/> (last visited July 30, 2025).

² Alana Goodman, *Largest Teachers' Union in United States Erases Jews From the Holocaust*, Wash. Free Beacon (July 23, 2025), <https://freebeacon.com/america/largest-teachers-union-in-united-states-erases-jews-from-the-holocaust/>; Matthew Xiao, *'Radical, Antisemitic Agenda': Anti-Defamation League Slams Nation's Largest Teachers' Union for Banning Its Materials*, Wash. Free Beacon (July 8, 2025), <https://freebeacon.com/latest-news/radical-antisemitic-agenda-anti-defamation-league-slams-nations-largest-teachers-union-for-banning-its-materials/>.

³ *Id.*

Moreover, the handbook outlines the NEA's plans to "educate members and the general public about the history of the Palestinian Nakba" but offers no context about the history of the state of Israel and the events that led to its creation.⁴ Further, as stated by the ADL, "[s]ome Palestinian politicians, writers and commentators use Nakba Day to insinuate that the very existence of Israel is a catastrophe and to question the legitimacy of Israel as the Jewish national homeland."⁵ In short, when it comes to both the Holocaust and the founding of the State of Israel, the NEA's interest in educating about "historical injustices," "ongoing trauma," and "diaspora" does not include the Jewish people.

The handbook also states that the union will "use existing digital communication tools to educate members about the difference between anti-Zionism and antisemitism." In light of the above passages, the inclusion of this subject not only appears to reflect an ignorance of the perspective of Jewish people but also a potential animus towards them. Indeed, polling from Pew Research Center shows that 82 percent of Jewish adults in the United States consider "caring about Israel" to be "an essential or important part of what being Jewish means to them."⁶

The Committee is likewise concerned that on July 8, the NEA Representative Assembly voted to pass a resolution stating that the NEA "will not use, endorse, or publicize materials from the Anti-Defamation League, such as its curricular materials or statistics."⁷ The ADL is a non-profit focused on "stopping the defamation of the Jewish people" and is dedicated to combating antisemitism.⁸ After the vote, Jewish union members said the measure "sends a troubling message of exclusion" when "incidents of hate and bias are on the rise across the country."⁹ One Jewish teacher said in a union meeting that "some of our [NEA] members don't feel safe."¹⁰

Unfortunately, the July 8 measure and the plans set forth in NEA's handbook raise serious concerns that antisemitism has infected the nation's largest teachers' union. To aid the Committee in its investigation of whether the NEA is contributing to antisemitism among its members and in classrooms across the United States, please provide responses to the following by no later than September 4, 2025:

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Nakba*, Anti-Defamation League (Sept. 1, 2016), <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounder/nakba>.

⁶ John Gramlich and Alan Cooperman, *Most Jewish Americans Have Long-Standing Connections to Israel*, Pew Rsch. Ctr. (October 13, 2023), <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/10/13/most-jewish-americans-have-long-standing-connections-to-israel/#:~:text=In%20a%202019%2D2020%20Pew,feel%20emotionally%20attached%20to%20it>.

⁷ See Xiao, *supra* note 2.

⁸ *Who We Are*, Anti-Defamation League (last visited July 30, 2025), <https://www.adl.org/about/who-we-are>.

⁹ See Xiao, *supra* note 2.

¹⁰ *Id.* After public backlash, the NEA's Board of Directors said it would not implement the proposal. However, even in this announcement, the NEA continued to distance itself from ADL, stating, "[n]ot adopting this proposal is in no way an endorsement of the ADL's full body of work." In addition, that the NEA Representative Assembly—which the NEA itself describes as "the highest decision-making body within the 3 million-member NEA"—voted in favor of such a resolution points to deeply troubling, pervasive antisemitism among NEA members. See 2025 *Representative Assembly Update*, National Education Association, <https://www.nea.org/about-nea/leaders/president/from-our-president/2025-representative-assembly-update>; *RA At a Glance*, National Education Association, <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/conferences-events/annual-meeting-and-representative-assembly/about-ra/ra-at-a-glance>.

1. All documents and communications to, from, or in the possession of NEA leadership officials, including the president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, executive director, and executive committee, from October 7, 2023, to present, referring or relating to “antisemitism,” “Israel,” “Israeli,” “Palestine,” or “Palestinian.”¹¹
2. Meeting minutes for all meetings of the NEA board of directors and NEA executive committee since October 7, 2023, that refer to “Israel,” “antisemitism,” or “Palestine.”
3. All documents and communications to, from, or in the possession of NEA leadership officials, including the president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, executive director, executive committee, and board of directors, referring or relating to the July 8, 2025, vote to ban ADL materials.
4. All documents or communications to, from, or in the possession of NEA leadership officials, including the president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, executive director, executive committee, and board of directors, referring to the proposal, discussion, or approval of any items in the 2025 handbook that refer or relate to “antisemitism,” “Israel,” or “Palestine,” including but not limited to items #83, #6, and #7 on page 355.¹²
5. Documents sufficient to show all collective bargaining agreements negotiated by the NEA since October 7, 2023, that refer or relate to “antisemitism,” “Israel,” or “Palestine.”

When producing documents, do not alter them in any way, including but not limited to, the application of redactions or watermarks. Additionally, digital copies should be provided in a format that enables their printing and copying.

Congress’s oversight powers are derived from the U.S. Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. Under House Rule X, the Committee’s legislative and oversight jurisdiction is broad, extending to “education . . . generally” and “laws, programs, and Government activities relating to domestic educational programs and institutions and programs of student assistance within the jurisdiction of other committees.”¹³ The Committee’s jurisdiction also includes labor-management relations. Further, as set forth in House Rule X, the Committee “shall review and study on a continuing basis the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction.”¹⁴

¹¹ In this letter, “antisemitism” is defined in accordance with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition and contemporary examples. Examples of antisemitism under the IHRA definition may include “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavor” or by “drawing comparisons on contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.” *Working Definition of Antisemitism*, Int’l Holocaust Remembrance Assoc., May 26, 2016, <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>.

¹² See https://web.archive.org/web/20250722192518/https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/nea_handbook_online_2025.pdf.

¹³ RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119th Cong. at 7, 10 (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/rules.house.gov/files/documents/houserules119thupdated.pdf>.

¹⁴ RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119th Cong., Rule X cl. 1(e)(6); cl. 2(b)(1)(A) (2025).

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The information gathered in this investigation will aid the Committee in considering whether potential legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination within labor unions and combat antisemitism in federally funded schools, are needed.

Should you have any questions please contact Jenna Berger at jenna.berger@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Walberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Walberg" clearly distinguishable.

Tim Walberg

Chairman

House Education and Workforce Committee