

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3313

August 26, 2022

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Governor Cooper,

Recent national press reports have highlighted that a public school counselor in Fairfax, Virginia, was allowed to keep his job after a conviction for soliciting a minor.¹ Situations like this must never be allowed to happen in North Carolina schools.

Since 2020, however, while you have been in office, dozens of North Carolina teachers have been arrested for sex offenses against children.² A lawsuit filed in 2021 alleged that staff at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts engaged in a pattern of sexual abuse against students between the late 1960s to early 2010s.³

Children in North Carolina schools deserve the highest degree of protection from predators. A school should be a haven where students can focus on learning without fear of sexual abuse. Parents should know that those in positions of power in North Carolina are acting proactively to protect children in all facets of public education.

To that end, please respond **by September 9, 2022**, to the following questions detailing procedures in place to protect children in North Carolina schools:

1. What process or procedure is in place to ensure that a teacher or public school employee is barred from employment if he or she is convicted, or there is an outstanding, credible accusation, of a sex related offense in North Carolina or any other jurisdiction?
2. What procedures are in place to screen candidates during pre-employment to prevent abusers from employment in schools?

¹ Nicole Asbury, *Fairfax County School Counselor Kept Job After Solicitation Conviction*, Wash. Post (Aug. 22, 2022), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/08/22/fairfax-county-counselor-solicitation-minor/>.

² Sloan Rachmuth, *Passing North Carolina's "Parents' Bill of Rights" Will Help Stop Child Sex Abuse In Schools*, Education First Alliance (May 30, 2022), <https://www.edfirstnc.org/post/ncteachersexabuses>.

³ Sara Coello, *A Timeline of Sex Abuse Allegations at UNC School of the Arts*, Charlotte Observer (May 2, 2022), <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/article258430683.html>.

3. What procedures are in place to notify parents when their child is suspected to be the victim of sexual abuse?

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Catherine Truitt
Superintendent of Public Instruction
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825