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Congress of the United States
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**COMMITTEE ON
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NATIONAL SECURITY

May 4, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Re: The “Disinformation Governance Board”

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I am writing about the decision to create a bizarre “Disinformation Governance Board” at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Its sole function is to spy on American citizens, using authorization under the Patriot Act. Your job, and the DHS’, was to protect Americans from foreign threats. You have now created an internal police force that is based on political speech and political concerns.

This board is not only unconstitutional and purely partisan, but it is a Soviet-style attempt to obliterate freedom of speech. Congress has not authorized this new department or funded it. Your DHS’ February 7, 2022 terrorism bulletin cites a “heightened threat environment” due to domestic terrorism. The bulletin also states that “there is widespread online proliferation of false or misleading narratives regarding unsubstantiated widespread election fraud and COVID-19.” And that “grievances associated with these themes inspired violent extremist attacks during 2021.”

Almost every sentence is either false or at least subject to dispute. Certainly, there has been false information about the 2020 election and COVID-19. Most of it just happens to come from the Administration itself. But even if you disagree with that, you are not free to label this difference of opinion as “terrorism” and set up an illegal internal secret police. This is an outrageous abuse of civil rights and free speech.

My constituents were forced by the federal government to stay home, not go to school, and shut their businesses. Many were compelled to inject experimental and untested foreign biological material into their body. Many were denied proper treatment for COVID-19 while they watched other nations in real time successfully treat their citizens with remedial and effective drugs. The people have a right to speak about this and share their perspectives and displeasure, without the DHS declaring them terrorists or sharers of disinformation.

This Administration's efforts to propagandize and mislead Americans is not limited to your new Censorship Board. In February 2021, the DOD ordered a "directed standdown" "to address the issue of extremism in the ranks." 62.9% of all new money requested by DOJ in FY 2022 was for the purpose of fighting "domestic violent extremists"—which included the hiring of 299 new employees. And in October 2021, Attorney General Garland directed the full force of federal law enforcement against parents outraged over their children's indoctrination in support of sexual deviancy, pedophilia, grooming, and sexual mutilation in the name of gender dysphoria. Parents should be outraged, and you should be ashamed to support the sexual mutilation of our children. But at the very least you should end your efforts to classify these parents as terrorists.

Please also respond to the following questions:

1. Could you explain why violence from BLM and Antifa is not listed as violent extremism?
2. Can you explain why the recent mass killings by two Black Nationalists were not deemed domestic violent extremism?
3. Could you please list all the "violent extremist attacks in 2021?" Your bulletin and testimony are entirely devoid of evidence.
4. Could you please list property damage and lives lost due to "violent extremist attacks in 2021"?
5. Please list and identify all monetary damage and lives lost due to BLM riots in the summer of 2020?
6. Please identify all congressional sources authorizing a censorship board as being constructed by your office.
7. What is the amount you are budgeting for the new disinformation board?

Thank you for addressing my concerns. Please adhere to all rules and regulations when addressing these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar" followed by a stylized flourish.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress