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Your Support allows Capital Research Center to expose the politicized decisions of teachers unions regarding children's return to the classroom.
Can't get out of lockdown?

Blame extortion by teachers unions

BY MIKE WATSON, RESEARCH DIRECTOR, CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER

As states and municipalities pursue phased reopenings of economic and social life amid the novel coronavirus, workers are headed back to work. But some workers are finding teachers unions to be an unexpected impediment to their own resumption of something-like-normality. The burden of the unions' obstinacy will likely fall hardest on suburban professional women, forced to choose between their careers and supervising children forced to "learn" through "distance learning" — a euphemism for government school systems' pathetic substitute for classroom instruction.

In Virginia, for example, teachers unions are pushing for full-time remote instruction, with one teachers union president saying school should not resume until a vaccine — the success of which is not guaranteed — is widely

available. In Ohio, the Columbus teachers union balked at a plan for severely limited classroom instruction. And in Florida, teachers unions are also demanding full-time "distance learning."

The unions argue that subjecting children to inferior home-based, video conference schooling is necessary to protect them and the public servants who teach them — at least until some unachievable and perpetually moving goalpost of personal protection is achieved. In this, teachers unions are behaving much like police unions, notorious enablers of the worst abuses of the police power, when they support contract provisions and state laws that go far beyond any reasonably due process in protecting bad cops at the expense of public safety and order.

Of course, the American Academy of Pediatrics — that is, an association of *actual*

doctors concerned with children's health— has weighed in on the side of parents who want their kids to learn and who want to be able to return to work. According to the AAP, “all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” And the AAP — not a politically conservative institution by any stretch, given its support for gun control, Medicaid expansion, and government intervention to prevent climate change — affirms that continued closure of classrooms threatens students’ mental and physical health and well-being.

As for the epidemiological or public health effects, European countries that opened their schools in May and June did not see substantial transmission of the coronavirus, either among students or staff. The Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment has asserted that the “current understanding” backed by data is that “children play a minor role in the spread of the novel coronavirus. The virus is mainly spread between adults and from adult family members to children. The spread of COVID-19 among children or from children to adults is less common.”

So, if the health threats to staff and children are low (compared to, say, those of bus and train drivers, grocery workers, or police), why are teachers unions pushing to keep children at home, learning by an inferior method, while parents frantically scramble for child care? The American Federation of Teachers is brutally frank, engaging in what would, if it occurred anywhere other than a legislative debate, be called straightforward extortion: It is demanding \$117 billion in federal taxpayer funding, or else the children get it — as “school buildings will stay shuttered and America’s families will endure another academic year of at-home learning,” to quote America’s second-largest teachers union.

America’s parents do not have to put up with being held hostage by union leaders demanding unreasonable and imprudent continuations of ruinous lockdown policies. Demand a return toward normalcy.

Mike Watson is the research director at Capital Research Center in Washington, D.C.

The Washington Times

Thanks to you, Capital Research Center reveals the Left's surprising number of big players and dark money operatives. September 24, 2020

Right's wrath centers on Soros, but he's hardly alone: 'The left has multiple Soroses'

BY VALERIE RICHARDSON

When billionaire Michael Bloomberg announced he would sink \$100 million into helping Democrats capture Florida, he briefly did what had been viewed as impossible: He took the focus of the right's wrath off George Soros.

Mr. Soros has long been viewed as the embodiment of the left-wing megabucks donor, but as Mr. Bloomberg's donation showed, he isn't the only big-spending progressive in town, said Scott Walter, president of the conservative Capital Research Center.

"George Soros is certainly one of the most influential powerful men on the planet — an absolute pillar of the left in all things nonprofit and political," Mr. Walter said. "However, people need to understand that the left has multiple Soroses."

In terms of individual contributions to federal campaigns, neither Mr. Bloomberg nor Mr. Soros leads the pack in 2020. That distinction belongs to San Francisco billionaire Tom Steyer, who so far has sunk \$54 million into Democratic candidates and committees, according to Open Secrets, a project of the Center for Responsive Politics.

In fact, Mr. Soros only ranks 24th among

Democrat and Republican donors, with \$8 million in contributions during the 2020 election cycle. That list, however, only considers one source of campaign funding.

His total election spending to date approaches \$60 million when donations to his Democracy PAC from his Fund for Policy Reform and Soros Management Fund are included, which the Washington Free Beacon reported already exceeds his previous high of \$22 million in 2016.

The Democracy PAC's donations include \$8.5 million to the Senate Majority PAC; \$5 million to the Win Justice PAC, founded by the SEIU and Planned Parenthood Votes, which seeks to engage infrequent left-tilting voters; and \$1.75 million to Color of Change, part of the Black Lives Matter network.

"He is certainly pouring as much money as ever through both nonprofit channels and just hard political giving," said Mr. Walter. "I can say that George Soros is spending a great deal of money to elect Democrats."

Mr. Walter divides the ocean of political giving into three "rivers": Hard money, meaning direct

donations to candidates; independent expenditure committees, also known as 501c4 nonprofits; and 501c3 nonprofits that are barred from endorsing candidates but not from making donations to 501c4 organizations.

The 501c3 avenue, which includes cause-related advocacy groups such as the National Rifle Association on the right and the Center for American Progress on the left, “dwarfs the other two,” with left-tilting groups outraising right-tilting organizations by 3-to-1, he said.

What’s more, a 501c3 also may engage in “nonpartisan” voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts, but only the left side of the philanthropy aisle is taking advantage of that opportunity.

“The left does over \$100 million a cycle just in voter registration and get-out-the-vote, because most people don’t know that any charity is legally allowed to register voters and to bus them to the polls — as long as it’s done in a nonpartisan fashion,” Mr. Walter said with a laugh.

The Open Society Foundations network spent more than \$700 million in 2018, but not far behind were the Arabella Advisors network and the Tides Foundation network, with about \$600 million each.

“Steyer is enormous in this, and the Arabella Advisors empire is enormous in this,” Mr. Walter said. “The Tides empire is enormous in this. The left is Goliath, especially in the large nonprofit sector. I’m not taking anything away from Soros’s bigness and badness, but there are more.”

Both Mr. Steyer and Mr. Bloomberg sought unsuccessfully the Democratic presidential nomination. Mr. Bloomberg also has donated to groups that pay off the debts of convicted felons in Florida so that they may vote in the election, prompting calls for a federal investigation into whether such payments violate campaign-finance laws.

Certainly Mr. Soros is no Trump fan: He called the president an “impostor and a con man and a would-be dictator” in 2017. He took on his critics in an August interview with an Italian publication *La*

Repubblica that coincided with his 90th birthday.

“[T]here is an actual, genuine international conspiracy against me,” he said. “So, when I am challenging the same issues for an Open Society throughout the world, like discrimination, racial exclusion, totalitarian regimes, I am not conspiring, I am openly bringing forward the mission of my life.”

Much of his attention in recent years has focused on his effort to elect progressive district attorneys at the local level, an initiative he continues to fund in 2020.

His Illinois Justice & Public Safety PAC sunk \$2.1 million into Cook County prosecutor Kim Foxx’s Democratic primary race, which she won in March, even though she was outspent by challenger Bill Conway, son of a billionaire investor, by about 3-to-1.

Another Soros-backed candidate, former law professor Monique Worrell, won the Aug. 18 Democratic primary for Orlando state attorney, pulling off the upset over a former judge and chief assistant state attorney.

The big kahuna comes in November, when Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey faces George Gascon, a left-wing former San Francisco District Attorney who moved to Los Angeles to challenge her.

The campaigns have become especially heated in the wake of protests and rioting following the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody.

“No longer content with destroying law and order in San Francisco, Gascón and his benefactor George Soros aimed for the largest District Attorney office in the country for takeover,” said the *California Globe* in a Sept. 21 article.

Meanwhile, the Open Society Foundations announced in July it would invest \$220 million in “emerging organizations and leaders building power in Black communities across the country,” including funding cities that “reimagine public safety.”

Newsweek

August 17, 2020

Because of your generosity, No Safe Spaces publicly combats cancel culture and educates Americans on the importance of preserving the First Amendment.

CancelCon Takes on 'Greatest Threat to Free Speech in American History'

BY PAUL BOND

Some folks who have butted heads with social-media giants like Twitter, Facebook and YouTube over politically incorrect things they have said or written, and who have battled college administrators for their right to say uncomfortable things on a college campus, are banding together for something dubbed CancelCon.

Organizers are billing their digital convention as "The biggest free speech event of the year." Speakers include Ben Shapiro, Dave Rubin, Dennis Prager and Adam Carolla, all of whom appear in a movie about the so-called "cancel culture" at universities called No Safe Spaces, a co-sponsor of the event.

Many of the participants have been outspoken on the topic of free speech, including some who have testified at

congressional hearings.

"I speak on dozens of college campuses every year, so I have some first-hand experience with the anti-First Amendment activities. I've encountered anti-free speech measures, administrative cowardice, even physical violence," Shapiro told members of Congress in 2017.

At that same hearing three years ago, Carolla spoke sarcastically about "white privilege" and college kids who "grew up dipped in Purell," making a couple of prescient jokes considering the Black Lives Matter protesting and constant hand-washing amid the coronavirus pandemic that have marked 2020.

Now, they are taking their acts to CancelCon, to be streamed online September 17 and co-sponsored by

Young America's Foundation, one of the nation's largest organizations for conservative youth.

Organizers say it is the first in what they hope will be an annual event "for as long as the cancel culture exists," as one insider put it. The hope is that in the post-pandemic future it would be a physical convention, much like *PolitiCon*, which was last held in October in Nashville, Tennessee, and included appearances by former Democratic National Committee chair Donna Brazille, former FBI Director James Comey and conservative commentators Ann Coulter and Tomi Lahren.

"People are being shut down or 'canceled' at an increasingly alarming rate for simply wanting to speak their mind," Prager told *Newsweek*. "We are living through the greatest threat to free speech in American history. Free Speech was the one thing virtually every American agreed on. That this is changing is a far greater threat to America's future than any foreign enemy."

The talk-show host's PragerU, consisting of dozens of five-minute educational videos, has been at war for years with YouTube, which deems some of the content harmful to children and therefore restricts much of it in the same way it does pornography.

One of PragerU's videos consists

of Prager testifying to lawmakers last year when he told Sen. Ted Cruz that YouTube restricted a video about the Ten Commandments because it speaks of murder. "I will appeal to Google by re-releasing it as the Nine Commandments," Prager quipped at the hearing.

While Prager and Shapiro are conservative and Carolla is libertarian, Rubin, who was once part of the left-leaning Young Turks Network, describes himself as a "classical liberal," though his detractors allegedly seeking to "cancel" him label him far right and accuse him of hobnobbing with alleged white nationalists.

Ironically, the event will be featured on some of the platforms the four have battled with, including Facebook and YouTube, and it will include clips of *No Safe Spaces*, which was the top political documentary at the box office in 2019 and in March became the first film to be digitally distributed by Salem Media Group, the leader in conservative talk radio. Mill Street Entertainment releases the film on DVD and various streaming services on Sept. 15.

"The very thesis of *No Safe Spaces* — 'what happens on campus will not stay on campus' — is playing out in front of our very eyes," Carolla told *Newsweek*. "It's time to flex the muscle of resistance and refuse to be bullied."



September 23, 2020

Arabella Advisors faces more scrutiny and exposure by Capital Research Center because of your support.

Who are the left-wing groups protesting outside the homes of GOP lawmakers?

Sunrise Movement and ShutDownDC organized a protest outside Sen. Graham's D.C. home

BY EVIE FORDHAM

As the nation awaits who President Trump will nominate as the next Supreme Court justice to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, some left-wing groups are pushing lawmakers to delay the nomination process until after the November presidential election.

Somber mourners have paid respect to Ginsburg outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., but other protesters have also gathered outside the homes of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

Both lawmakers are on board with Trump's intent to nominate a new Supreme Court justice this month, prompting action from left-wing groups like Sunrise Movement and ShutDownDC.

The biggest donation to the Sunrise Movement this election cycle is \$500,000 from The Sixteen Thirty Fund, according to Open Secrets. Politico reported on The Sixteen Thirty Fund in 2019, noting that it spent \$141 million on more than 100 left-wing causes during the midterm election year – from pushing back against the nomination of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh to weighing in on voting laws and minimum wage ballot measures. Politico described it as an “unprecedented gusher of secret money” that boosted Democrats and liberal causes.

Conservative-leaning Capital Research Center describes The Sixteen Thirty Fund as “the lobbying shop for the Arabella network,” referring to Arabella Advisors, a network of liberal nonprofits run by former Clinton administration

appointee Eric Kessler.

“Each plays a slightly different role in the network, but all share the same basic functions – sponsoring pop-up groups (also called ‘projects’) and paying out grants to other left-wing nonprofits,” the CRC’s report says. Those pop-up groups are often activist websites that can “pop up” one day and disappear the next, allegedly to give the appearance of grassroots campaigning for a political cause.

The Sixteen Thirty Fund pushed back on its description as a “lobbying shop” for Arabella, adding that it is “committed to following the current laws to level the playing field for progressives in this election,” in a statement to Fox News.

Sunrise Movement and ShutDownDC, which were originally formed to fight climate change, organized a disruptive protest outside Graham’s home in Washington, D.C., on Monday.

“We’re not stopping,” the Sunrise Movement wrote on Twitter after facing backlash.

Banging drums, shouting slogans and flashing lights, dozens of protesters assembled outside Graham’s home in the early morning hours on Monday as Capitol Police tried to keep them off the lawmaker’s property.

“We can’t sleep so neither should Lindsey,” a banner read.

Demonstrators later marched from Graham’s home to the Supreme Court building.

Graham was not in Washington at the time and “regrets the disturbance caused to his neighbors,” a spokesman for the senator said Monday afternoon.

