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August 21, 2025

Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton
and School Board of Alachua County
620 East University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Superintendent Patton and Alachua County School Board Members:

Yesterday, Crystal Marull testified before the State Board of Education that a teacher from your county allowed students to label Dr. Marull's son a "Naziphile" because of his interest in World War II history and participation in ROTC. That same teacher nominated her son "Most Likely to Become a Dictator" due to his conservative values, had his classmates vote on the "award," and tried to force the student to the front of the class to receive a certificate, which he correctly refused. If these facts bear out—and we have no reason to doubt Dr. Marull's veracity—then this teacher should be immediately terminated, and never allowed to teach again in Florida.

Florida law prohibits bullying and harassment.¹ The Alachua County School Board's policy also prohibits bullying and harassment.² Indeed, teachers must adhere to the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida. Teachers must not "harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of ... political beliefs," "intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement," "unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view," "unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning," "intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program," or expose a student to "conditions harmful to learning."³ Failure to comply with these principles may result in the "revocation or suspension" of the teacher's certificate.⁴ In this case, that's just what should happen. This teacher violated Florida law, the School Board's policy, and no less than six ethical principles. Her teacher's certificate must be revoked.

¹ § 1006.147, Fla. Stat.

² *Policy Manual*, Alachua County Public Schools, Dec. 7, 2021, go.boarddocs.com/fl/alaco/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AMTSM670705B#.

³ Fla. Admin. Code R. 6A-10.081(2)(a)1.-5., and 10.

⁴ Fla. Admin. Code R. 6A-10.081(2).

Public schools in New York or California might be willing to accept this teacher's services, but not Florida. We expect better from our teachers. Teachers who bully and harass their own students are unworthy of the public trust. Despite this teacher's nasty immaturity, we commend this young man for his strength in the face of rank political discrimination. Remove this teacher from the classroom. Parents and students in Alachua deserve better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Uthmeier", written in a cursive style.

James Uthmeier
Attorney General