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House of Representatives
State of Tennessee
NASHVILLE

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January 14, 2026

Dear Commissioner Reynolds,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the recent announcement that the State of Tennessee is partnering with Turning Point USA to introduce “Club America” in public high schools. My concerns are not rooted in opposition to civic engagement or student participation, but rather in the process, transparency, and broader implications this partnership raises for public education.

It is troubling that this initiative was reportedly discussed and announced through private meetings, without prior public notice, stakeholder input, or clear explanation of implementation standards. Public schools are taxpayer-funded institutions, and decisions that impact students, families, and educators should be made through transparent, inclusive, and accountable processes.

Additionally, I am concerned about how this partnership aligns with the expectation that public schools remain politically neutral environments. Turning Point USA is a nationally recognized partisan organization. If such an organization is granted access to public schools, it raises an important question: would organizations representing differing or opposing political viewpoints be afforded the same opportunity under equal terms? If not, this creates the appearance of selective endorsement, which risks undermining trust in our educational institutions.

Furthermore, the lack of clarity surrounding guidelines, oversight, and content raises concerns about potential censorship or suppression of alternative perspectives. Schools should foster critical thinking, open dialogue, and exposure to a diversity of ideas—without privileging one political ideology over others.

I respectfully request clarification on the following:

- What criteria were used to approve this partnership?
- What safeguards are in place to ensure political neutrality and fairness?
- How will transparency and public accountability be maintained moving forward?

- Will similar opportunities be extended to other civic or political organizations representing diverse viewpoints?

Tennessee's public schools serve students of all backgrounds and beliefs. It is essential that educational policy decisions reflect fairness, openness, and a commitment to democratic principles.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your attention to these concerns and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yusuf A. Hakeem". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'Y' and 'H'.

Representative Yusuf Hakeem

Tennessee House of Representatives, District 28
Mm

Cc: Gary Lily
Brian Partin