

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

DON SCOTT

SPEAKER

Speaker's Room

State Capitol

Post Office Box 406

Richmond, Virginia 23218

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
RULES (CHAIR)

August 2, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Youngkin,

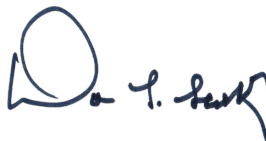
Ms. Lindsey Burke, who serves on George Mason University's Board of Visitors, has authored a chapter on the Department of Education in the 2025 Presidential Transition Project – also known as Project 2025. In the first sentence of Section III, Chapter 11, Ms. Burke states that “federal education policy should be limited, and ultimately, the federal Department of Education should be eliminated.” Additionally, she champions the abolishment of student loan forgiveness programs, and wants to roll back Title IV, Title VI, and Title IX protections, including those for sexual assault survivors and LGBTQ+ students. Her extreme views are alarming and contradicts the Commonwealth's efforts.

Education is the foundation of our society. Without quality educational opportunities, prosperity for all Virginians would greatly suffer; our world-class education system would become less equitable and inclusive, and academic excellence would diminish. We need champions that believe in good governance to serve on our public institution boards, not extremist ideologues. Ms. Burke's advocacy for irrevocable changes to our education system undermines the work that has been done and threatens the right to a quality and a safe education.

Ms. Burke's position raises serious concerns and brings into question her suitability to serve on the Board of Visitors for Virginia's largest R1 and public research institution. Her views do not reflect the mission of George Mason University and do not support the Commonwealth's commitment to education.

I urge you to take the necessary steps to remove Ms. Lindsey Burke from George Mason University's Board of Visitors. It is imperative that the Board be composed of individuals who align with the values and mission of the Commonwealth and the institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Scott", with a stylized circular flourish at the beginning.

Speaker Don Scott
Eighty Eight District

Cc:

The Honorable Louise Lucas, President Pro Tempore, Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Luke Torian, Chairman of Appropriations, House of Delegates

The Honorable Kelly Gee, Secretary of the Commonwealth

John Littel, Chief of Staff of Governor Glenn Youngkin