

unvaccinated teachers were excluded and stigmatized as a "harm" to attendees. For a group that screams "My body, my choice," the double standard is appalling.

On a positive note, the NEA voted down a new business item trying to mandate that all teachers in the nation be vaccinated. It lost, with 84% of the vote opposing.

Vice President Kamala Harris addressed the gathering on July 5 and repeatedly called Republican leaders in Washington "extremists." The NEA's executive director, Kim Anderson, said, "The Supreme Court has removed the right to marry someone of a different race." (That's flat-out false.)

She went on to say, "This Supreme Court and a significant number of radicalized elected officials have walked away from 'freedom for all' for an extreme discriminatory, exclusionary, misogynist, homophobic, out of touch, racist, cruel, corrupt ideology!"

I spoke up during a debate opposing a new business item to create a smear list of organizations seeking to

"dismantle public education due to diminishing freedoms of sexual and gender identities and honest education" (a smokescreen for critical race theory).

This was my virtual statement:

I, Brenda Lebsack, oppose [new business item] 15. NEA says they strive for a safe school climate for all, yet forget that, according to the 2021 Pew Research, 56% of Americans believe gender is based on biological reality. NEA does not believe this. NEA believes that a child can choose their gender based on their feelings and that there are infinite options and pronouns. How can public schools be a safe place for all students, when NEA leaders demonize over half of the families represented in our public schools?

If NEA creates a fact sheet of the organizations "dismantling" public education, please include NEA on that list.

As founder of the Interfaith State-wide Coalition and a teacher in California, I can tell you that many orthodox Muslims, Jews, Catholics, and Chris-

tians no longer feel public schools are a safe place.

Your social justice goals to assault family cultures that do not match your own, and to use public education to propagate extremist views, is wrong. This is an abuse of power. That's why I, as a teacher, support parent rights and school choice.

I was tempted to state my "preferred" pronouns as "Com, U, and Nism," but I resisted the urge to do so.

In conclusion, with respect to almost everything the NEA accuses others of doing, it is one of the biggest offenders.

America is in desperate need of educational reform because this powerful union, the National Education Association, has a delusional messiah complex and is using teachers and students as its political pawns.

• *Brenda Lebsack is a California teacher and former school board member who writes at "Brenda4Kids."*

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