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**Center for Self Governance Statement: POLITICAL WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT**

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To Whom It May Concern,

September 10, 2022

Center For Self Governance (CSG) teaches ‘cooperative’ federalism (i.e., ‘marble cake’) and ‘dual’ federalism (i.e., ‘layer cake’) as our primary public effort to promote systematic politics through civics education. We do not discriminate or limit participation in our training based on partisan affiliation, sexual orientation, religious preference, or socio-economic status. Our goal is to advance civic dialogue, increase collective political skill sets, and promote responsible government of more stability for all natural born persons.

CSG does not teach, practice, or support (1) any racial, sexual, aristocratic, or religious supremacy, (2) confrontational civics or politics of any right or left-wing partisan spectrum, or (3) any right or left-wing violence for the advancement of any political, social, religious, or economic change.

Out of growing concern for the political health and welfare of our trainees, our communities, and our nation, we make the following statement:

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Labels (i.e., domestic terrorist, extremist, white supremacist, right-wing, anti-government, etc.) are being dubiously applied by certain nonprofits, media, academics, social media, and businesses which target knowing or unknowing proponents of the precedent doctrine, known as ‘dual’ federalism.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mark D. Herr, “Political Weaponization of Labels (PWOL) – How Americans Become Unwitting Domestic Terrorists” (Center for Self Governance, 2019). Conservatives argue they are disproportionately targeted by PWOL – and they are. However, they are not the sole proponents of ‘dual’ federalism. Hence, our exclusion of the word ‘conservative,’ as the sole basis for targeting, is to point out that targeting may not merely be based on one’s partisan, religious, or sexual worldview.

Labels themselves, protected by free speech, have become private and public sector weapons to censor<sup>2</sup>, cancel<sup>3</sup>, shadow ban<sup>4</sup>, defame<sup>5</sup>, disrupt<sup>6</sup>, damage<sup>7</sup>, surveil<sup>8</sup>, trespass<sup>9</sup>, arrest<sup>10</sup>, or kill<sup>11</sup> knowing or unknowing proponents of ‘dual’ federalism.

While the aforementioned is disconcerting, of an even deeper and troubling concern is that Political Weaponization of Labels used by these institutions and their acolytes have morphed into a robust Political Weaponization of Government against the knowing and unknowing proponents of ‘dual’ federalism doctrine – all under the guise and narrative that this systematic doctrine is advanced by ‘extreme, white, anti-government, terrorists.’<sup>12</sup>

Federal law enforcement entities, under these circumstances, are being used as political weapons against duly elected officials and the American people. For example, disproportionate application and timing of investigative and prosecutorial authority between President Joe Biden’s son, Hunter Biden<sup>13</sup> and former President Donald Trump<sup>14</sup> is astounding. Equally astounding is the cooperation between unelected National and State School Board associations, the White House, the DOJ, and FBI to target concerned public school parents since September 2021.<sup>15</sup> And doubly disconcerting, are the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 election integrity protestors remaining imprisoned and denied access to exculpatory evidence for their cases,<sup>16</sup> while abortion rights protestors remain free as they coerced and intimidated both government officials and policy in both direct violation of Virginia law<sup>17</sup> and the Federal definition of Domestic Terrorism.<sup>18</sup>

In a July 26, 2022, letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Christopher Wray, U.S. Senator and ranking Senate Judiciary Committee member Chuck Grassley wrote<sup>19</sup>, “The aforementioned allegations put a finer point on concerns that I have raised for many years about political considerations infecting the decision-making process at the Justice Department and FBI. If these allegations are true and accurate, the Justice Department and FBI are – and have been – institutionally corrupted to their very core to the point in which the United States Congress and the American people will have no confidence in the equal application of the law (our emphasis). Attorney General Garland and Director Wray, simply put, based on the allegations that I’ve received from numerous whistleblowers, you have systemic and existential problems within

<sup>2</sup> C. Douglas Golden, “How Did Big Tech Censor Conservatives in 2021? Here's Six Huge Ways” (The Western Journal, December 21, 2021)

<sup>3</sup> Danielle Kurtzleben, “When Republicans Attack ‘Cancel Culture,’ What Does It Mean?” (NPR – Morning Addition, February 10, 2021)

<sup>4</sup> Paula Akpan, “How Shadow Banning Affects People From Different Communities” (November 9, 2020)

<sup>5</sup> [CASE 10028095581] Amazon Smile excluding Center for Self Governance from Amazon Charity program based solely only ‘anti-government’ labeling by Amazon Smile board member Southern Poverty Law Center

<sup>6</sup> Kassy Dillon, “Marquette staffer plots to disrupt Ben Shapiro lecture” (January 31, 2017)

<sup>7</sup> Joseph A. Wulfsohn, “CNN panned for on-air graphic reading ‘fiery but mostly peaceful protest’ in front of Kenosha fire” (Fox News, August 27, 2020)

<sup>8</sup> Tammy Marie Rose, “This MAGA supporter was really an undercover reporter. What she discovered at Trump rallies was alarming.” (June 25, 2022)

<sup>9</sup> Eric Moutsos, “Interview with trespassed parent Mike Brown” <https://www.facebook.com/tncsg/posts/interview-with-trespassed-parent-mike-brown-dueprocessmatters/5165229796872213/>

<sup>10</sup> Jessica Chasmar, “Loudon County father arrested at school board event says school tried to cover up daughter’s bathroom assault” (October, 12, 2021)

<sup>11</sup> Mark Pitcavage “Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum: The Making of a Martyr” (February 2, 2016)

<sup>12</sup> DHS Domestic Extremism Lexicon, March 26, 2009; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic\\_Extremism\\_Lexicon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_Extremism_Lexicon)

<sup>13</sup> James Geraghty, “Hunter Biden: The Most Comprehensive Timeline” (National Review, September 30, 2019)

<sup>14</sup> Dan Beran, “A long list of investigations and lawsuits involving Donald Trump” (CNN, March 9, 2022)

<sup>15</sup> Jerry Dunleavy, “House GOP presses NSBA on ‘collusion’ with White House” (Washington Examiner, October 27, 2021)

<sup>16</sup> Cara Castronuova, “Highly Sensitive DOJ Jan6. Documents Leaked to Gateway Pundit” (Gateway Pundit, July 11, 2022)

<sup>17</sup> Hans A. von Spakovsky, “Refusing to Prosecute Those Protesting at Supreme Court Justices’ Homes Is Inexcusable” (Heritage.org, Jun 1, 2022)

<sup>18</sup> 18 US Code 2231 – Definitions (5). the term “domestic terrorism” means activities that—(A) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State; (B) appear to be intended—(i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and (C) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States; and

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley, Letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and FBI Director Christopher Wray, July 25, 2022

your agencies. You have an obligation to the country to take these allegations seriously, immediately investigate and take steps to institute fixes to these and other matters before you.”

In a July 27, 2022, letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray, U.S. Representative and Ranking House Judiciary Committee member Jim Jordan wrote<sup>20</sup>, “From recent [whistleblower] protected disclosures, we have learned that FBI officials are pressuring agents to reclassify cases as “domestic violent extremism” even if the cases do not meet the criteria for such a classification. Given the narrative pushed by the Biden Administration that domestic violent extremism is the “greatest threat” facing our country, the revelation that the FBI may be artificially padding domestic terrorism data is scandalous. These whistleblower allegations...cheapens actual examples of violent extremism. This information reinforces our concerns – about which we have written to you several times – regarding the FBI’s politicization (our emphasis) ...”

Recently, an FBI Whistleblower stated<sup>21</sup>, “I would hope that we could end up with a non-partisan law enforcement agency in this country. That’s not doing things that seem to be inappropriate for the power that it wields. I mean, it’s truly an incredible amount of power if used wrong...We cannot have partisan investigations and using a piece of the executive branch as a weapon (our emphasis).”

CSG unequivocally agrees with Senator Grassley’s and Representative Jordan’s concerns and the FBI Whistleblower’s sentiments. We whole-heartedly urge that (1) Due Process, Equal Protection of the Law, and Innocent until proven Guilty be rewoven into our Criminal Justice System, (2) formal Federal and State hearings commence into the Political Weaponization of Government, and (3) the Political Weaponization of Government against duly elected Federal, State, and Local officials and the American people be terminated without prejudice.

To be clear, it is not our intention to disrupt or undermine legitimate national safety and security concerns, but we believe implementation of the suggestions listed above and below would help prevent labels and government being used as weapons against political opponents and ordinary citizens.

- A. Definition of ‘Domestic Terrorism’ is too broad
- B. ‘Domestic Extremism’ lexicons need reform
- C. Law Enforcement ‘Terrorism’ and ‘Extremism’ Training need checks & balances
- D. Intergovernmental Cooperation Protocols, for ‘Extremism’ and ‘Terrorism’ need checks & balances
- E. Non-governmental participation in ‘countering extremism’ needs public-private restrictions and liability re-evaluation

Our report, “The Political Weaponization of Labels – How U.S. Citizens Unwittingly Become ‘Domestic Terrorists,’”<sup>22</sup> further outlines our suggestions and is available upon request. We ask that Federal, State, and Local investigations, hearings, and reforms are vigorously pursued to ensure civil rights are safe-guarded, political discourse and education is respected and protected, law enforcement is not politically weaponized, and that ‘government of more stability,’ one that balances ‘dual’ and ‘cooperative’ federalism, is guaranteed for all partisans, religions, races, sexes, etc., for many generations to come.

## **Yours Humbly and Mutually Pledged,**

**Lex Howard, Board Member**

**Bill Norton, Board Member**

**Mila Wood, Board Member**

**Matt Brown, Board Member**

**Zach Brooks, Board Member**

**Mark Herr, Board Member**

**Ben Clymer, Board Member – Chairman**

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Representative Jim Jordan, Letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray, July 27, 2022

<sup>21</sup> James O’Keefe, “BREAKING: FBI Whistleblower Leaks Document Showing Bureau Targeting ‘News Media’, (Project Veritas, May 11, 2022)

<sup>22</sup> Mark D. Herr, “Political Weaponization of Labels (PWOL) – How Americans Become Unwitting Domestic Terrorists” (CenterForSelfGovernance.com/PWOL, 2019).