



March 3, 2022

Dear Governor,

NewsGuard, a so-called online “credibility” arbiter, is threatening the quality and integrity of the education system in your state. And in every state.

NewsGuard has recently partnered with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to censor points of view they disagree with in the classroom. Specifically, NewsGuard is actively working with the AFT to bring its agenda-driven rating system to classrooms across the country. Why? To stymie students from partaking in an open exploration of news and views from across the political spectrum.

NewsGuard claims to objectively rate the validity and accuracy of websites and news sources. But it does nothing of the sort. In fact, as we have pointed out [in a recent study](#), NewsGuard is yet another one-sided, leftist organization dedicated to silencing conservative voices and other viewpoints it disagrees with. Specifically, in our study we “*found that outlets rated ‘left’ or ‘lean left’ by [AllSides](#) received an average NewsGuard score of 93/100. Sites considered ‘right’ or ‘lean right’ by AllSides had an average NewsGuard rating of 66/100”.*

As we have outlined [in our report](#): “*School children depend on the internet for homework help. NewsGuard is now stepping in to ‘filter’ online sources for so-called ‘misinformation.’ The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) union is buying NewsGuard licenses for its 1.7 million member teachers, according to an AFT press release. The partnership will make NewsGuard available to tens of millions of students and their families for free. The NewsGuard partnership will foist the company’s ‘real-time “traffic light” news ratings and detailed “Nutrition Label” reviews, via a licensed copy of NewsGuard’s browser extension’ on students using news stories for research.*”

We are calling on you to stop this ideological assault on education and freedom of speech. There should be no partnership among such ideologically driven outside organizations and state-sponsored educational establishments. Such partnerships are clear conflicts of interest with an open and honest educational system.



If, according to NewsGuard, a website does not meet its biased criteria for accuracy, NewsGuard gives that website a worse rating — on a scale of 1-100. The purpose of NewsGuard’s rating system is clear ... to silence voices with which it disagrees. Examples of NewsGuard’s bias include:

- HuffPost, which published an attack piece on then-conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh following his death headlined “Rush Limbaugh, Bigoted King of Talk Radio, Dies at 70,” scored a “87.5” by NewsGuard.
- The Federalist, posted in the “right” AllSides list, was scored the worst with a ridiculous “12.5” on NewsGuard. A predominant reason for the abysmal rating, according to NewsGuard, was that The Federalist questioned the efficacy of mask mandates for COVID-19, even though liberal CNBC (not on the AllSides list, but has a “95” NewsGuard rating) cited a study showing that cloth masks were only 37 percent effective at filtering out virus particles.
- Abortion giant Planned Parenthood, who performed 9 million abortions as of July 2021, recieved a positive 75/100 rating. Yet, NewsGuard gave pro-life LifeNews and Live Action websites negative red “credibility” ratings of 30/100. NewsGuard specifically downgraded Live Action for reportedly exposing corruption in Planned Parenthood. The rating firm gave LifeSiteNews a 17.5/100.

And now NewsGuard is bringing this leftist, censorship agenda to secondary and post-secondary schools throughout the country — through a partnership with a far-left teacher’s union.

This agenda must be stopped dead in its tracks.

As education is a key priority of any state, we are urging you, as your state’s chief executive, to call out NewsGuard for its ideologically driven agenda. We are also asking you to take immediate steps to prevent NewsGuard from inserting itself into the classrooms and schools of your state

As organizations representing millions of Americans all across the country, including your state, we are calling on you to immediately and publicly take a stand and prevent the agenda driven NewsGuard from insinuating itself into the classrooms in your state.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President
Media Research Center

Saulius “Saul” Anuzis
President
60 Plus Association

Ted Baehr, Th.D., HHD, J.D.
Chairman
Christian Film and Television Commision

Gary L. Bauer
President
American Values

Ryan Bomberger
Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer
The Radiance Foundation

Dan Bongino
The Dan Bongino Show

Merrilee Boyack
President
Strengthen Utah Families

Floyd Brown
Publisher
The Western Journal

Mrs. Susan Carleson Curren
Chairman and CEO
The Carleson Center for Welfare Reform

Senator Jim DeMint
Chairman
Conservative Partnership Institute

William A. Donohue
President
Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights

Erick-Woods Erickson
Host of the Erick Erickson Show

Steven Ertelt
Editor
LifeNews.com

Mark J. Fitzgibbons
President of Corporate Affairs
American Target Advertising, Inc.

Lady Brigitte Gabriel
Founder & Chairman
Act for America

Gualberto Garcia Jones
Vice President
LifeSiteNews.com

Paul J. Gessing
President
Rio Grande Foundation

Kristi Hamrick
Chief Media and Policy Strategist and Spokesperson
Students for Life of America/Students for Life Action

Aaron Harison
President
Free Beacon

Kristan Hawkins
President
Students for Life Action/Students for Life of America

Heather R. Higgins
CEO
Independent Women's Voice

Colleen Holcomb
President
Eagle Forum

Phil Kerpen
President
American Commitment

Amy Kremer
Chairwoman
Women for America First

David Kupelian
Vice President and Managing Editor
WND

Jim Lakely
Vice President and Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute

George Landrith
President
Frontiers of Freedom

Carrie Lukas
President
Independent Women's Forum

Richard Manning
President
Americans for Limited Government

James L. Martin
Founder and Chairman
60 Plus Association

Rod D. Martin
Founder and CEO
The Martin Organization

Cleta Mitchell, Esq.
Senior Legal Fellow
Conservative Partnership Institute

Phelim McAleer
Ann & Phelim Media

Michael P. McDonald
Communications Director
The Catholic League
Ann McElhinney
Ann & Phelim Media

C. Preston Noell III
President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Emmanuel Rincon
Editor-at-Large
El American

Austin Ruse
President
Center for Family and Human Rights

Terry Schilling
President
American Principles Project

Jon Schweppe
Director of Policy & Government Affairs
American Principles Project

Craig Shirley
Chairman and CEO
Shirley & McVicker Public Affairs

Sharon Slater
President
Family Watch International

Sean Spicer
Former White House Press Secretary

Mathew D. Staver, Esq., B.C.S.
Founder and Chairman
Liberty Council

James Taylor
President
Heartland Institute

Governor Scott Walker
President
Young America's Foundation

Lieutenant Colonel Allen B. West (U.S. Army, Retired)
Member, 112th U.S. Congress
Former Chairman, Republican Party of Texas

Aaron Withe
CEO
Freedom Foundation