

September 21, 2021

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. Governor of Maryland 100 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Corrective and Corruptive Actions - Access to Clothes

## Dear Governor Hogan:

I am writing to notify you that Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) officials provided me with additional evidences of fraud and abuse by Ms. Marcella E. Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (the Division), MSDE and her team in programs receiving financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) for the education of children with disabilities in Maryland (the State). This letter follows my letters to you on October 15, 2020; January 06, 2021; February 24, 2021; and March 12, 2021 in which I explained to you about the evidences of fraud by Ms. Franczkowski and/or Ms. Dori Wilson, Previous Chief, Family Support and Dispute Resolution Branch, MSDE.

The following staff from Ms. Franczkowski's team participated in the actions described in this letter:

1. Dr. Nancy Birenbaum, Compliance Specialist, Dispute Resolution Branch, within the Division (the Specialist).

## **Background:**

- 1. On July 15, 2020; July 21, 2020; and July 23, 2020 I filed complaints with Ms. Franczkowski, under federal and state laws;
- 2. One of the issue was that Maryland's school system did not ensure that my son's need to have change of clothes due to his disability (Autism) was addressed to develop/revise his Individualized Education Program (IEP) under the law;

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- 3. I had explained multiple times to Ms. Franczkowski that extra clothes is an important item for the student due to his disability and informed her that I felt sorry that I had to write a complaint to her regarding his clothes;
- 4. On September 10, 2020 Ms. Franczkowski informed me in writing that she found that the school system violated the law and she has required the school system to provide documentation that the IEP team has addressed the student's need for extra clothing at school (the Corrective Action);
- 5. On Sunday, February 21, 2021, Dr. Birenbaum documented that the school system worked with the school to develop a plan to address the student's need for extra clothing at school and the plan was outlined in an e-mail, sent by the school's principal to the parent and for that reason the MSDE "finds" that the school system completed the Corrective Action and the MSDE closed the matter (the Corruptive Action);
- 6. On the same date, Dr. Birenbaum notified Ms. Anita Mandis, Previous Chief, Complaint Investigation Section, within the Division and Ms. Wilson, of the Corruptive Action;
- 7. On August 25, 2021 I informed Ms. Franczkowski in writing that the student continue to face issues related to extra clothes;
- 8. On the same date, Ms. Mandis brought to the attention of Ms. Franczkowski that on September 10, 2020, she had required a corrective action. But, Ms. Mandis was silent on whether the corrective action was implemented;
- 9. On September 08, 2021; I informed Ms. Franczkowski again in writing that the student continue to face issues with extra clothes at the school. I informed Ms. Franczkowski that Maryland was sending the student sent home with someone else's clothes while his extra clothes were at the school. I informed Ms. Franczkowski that I don't know whose clothes were they and whether they were washed; this is especially important during this time of COVID-19; and the student's parents end up washing them before returning them; and I was not sure if someone else was wearing the student's clothes; I also expressed concern to Ms. Franczkowski that Maryland was discriminating the student by denying him access to his clothes because he is disabled;
- 10.On September 10, 2021, Ms. Franczkowski responded in writing and confirmed that the MSDE closed the case consistent with the Corruptive Action, but falsely documented that the Corrective Action was completed; Ms. Franczkowski did not deny that Maryland discriminated the student; and
- 11. As of the date of this letter, the IEP team has not convened to address the student's need for extra clothes as required by the Corrective Action.

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As you can see above, the Corrective Action was for the <u>IEP Team</u> to convene and address the Student's needs. The Corrective Action was not for the the school system and the school to develop a plan or send email. Ms. Franczkowski and Dr. Birenbaum, who have several years of experience at the MSDE, created fraudulent documentation and closed the case without ensuring that the Corrective Action was implemented. This is not the first time Ms. Franczkowski's team doing such corruptive actions.

I request you to take immediate disciplinary actions for Ms. Franczkowski and Dr. Birenbaum and request you to ensure that the Corrective Action is implemented. It is very unfortunate that I had to write to you about the student's clothes. If Ms. Franczkowski and Dr. Birenbaum are not capable and willing to provide the support to the student for such a simple thing, they should be removed from their positions instead of being paid with tax payer funds.

By this letter to you and the copies, I would like to remind the MSDE and Maryland that federal regulations prohibit public entities and recipients of Federal Financial Assistance (FFA) from taking actions, towards my son or any of his immediate family members, to harass, intimidate, threaten, coerce or discriminate them, because I filed this complaint with you, any additional complaints regarding the same or different matter, asserted the students' right to receive FAPE in Maryland, or asserted the students' right to not being discriminated based on their disabilities, in Maryland. I request you to take proactive measures to ensure that violations described in this paragraph do not occur.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please contact me to confirm the receipt of this letter. If you need further information or clarification, I can be reached at the contact numbers in this letter.

Sincerely,



Hameed Jamarussadiq

c: Sandra Bruce Laurie VanderPloeg The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. September 21, 2021 Page 4 of 4

> Gregg Corr Christine Pilgrim Gbenimah Slopadoe Boyd K. Rutherford Mohammed Choudhury Carol A. Williamson Marcella E. Franczkowski