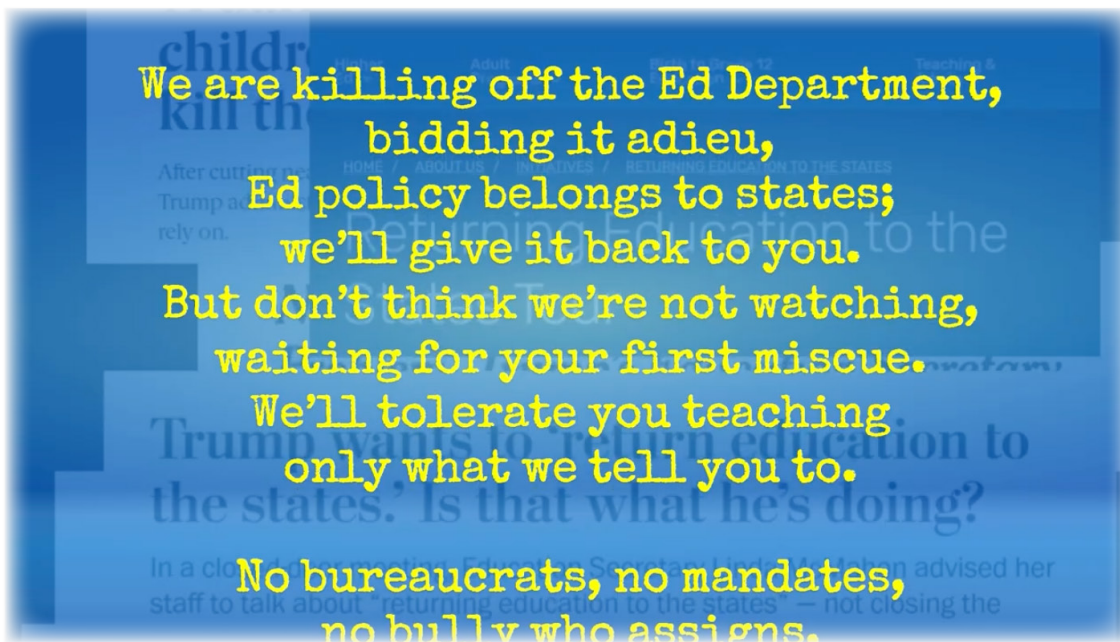




New Single “We Believe in Local Control” Drops Today



Each April 1st, we here at NEPC enjoy sending off our April Fools newsletters. The world's obscenities beg for enthusiastic mocking.

This year, we decided to try something different: a satirical anthem titled, “We Believe in Local Control.” The song promises to unite audiences in tapping their feet while blissfully contemplating the death of the Republic.

Sung from the perspective of the Trump administration's happy warriors, the song ponders the hypocrisy of trumpeting local control while demanding strict adherence to a slew of oppressive mandates.

“I wanted to write something that truly captures the spirit of April 1st—the day when everyone fesses up to lying,” said NEPC director Kevin Welner, the song's lyricist. “And I figured adding a melody feels more festive.”

Those who disagree and would rather read lyrics than hear them will be gratified to find them at the bottom of this newsletter. For the rest of you, the Official Music Video is available [here](#).

Jasper Gimpel, the Elton John to Kevin's Bernie Taupin, took the lead in composing the tune. He also provided the piano and lead vocals, with Leah Welner providing backing vocals.

All of this, Kevin tells us, was worth the effort. "To write 'We Believe in Local Control,' I had to commit to a strict regimen of snarkmaxxing™ over a grueling period of months," he explained. "It cost me some fair-weather friends, but art demands sacrifice."

Lyrics:

We are killing off the Ed Department, bidding it adieu.
Ed policy belongs to states; we'll give it back to you.
But don't think we're not watching, waiting for your first miscue.
We'll tolerate you teaching only what we tell you to.

No bureaucrats, no mandates, no bully who assigns,
Except, of course, our memos, our punishments and fines.
We truly trust the states to heed our petty little signs.
Since nothing says "cooperate" like threats to bottom lines.

We believe in local control,
So long as you locals obey.
While you're free to play your role,
Don't get carried away.
Since defiance takes a toll,
Please remove your vertebrae.

We fired those in Title One; they coddled kids in need.
We knee-capped special ed, 'cuz compassion leads to greed.
We gutted OCR but kept some lawyers who'll mislead.
Comply with no objections to whatever we've decreed.

Yes, special ed's gone, the laws are wrong, kids with needs can wait.
And if you ask who's minding rights we say: "deregulate!"

We flipped those laws on their little heads -- said, "We're fair to white and straight."

"Equality's just racism, and diversity's just hate!"

We believe in local control,
So long as you locals obey.
We're decent folks -- on the whole,
Yeah, we sing hymns and we pray.
But if you cross us, you a-hole,
We're afraid you'll have to pay.

We've brought back prayer and Bibles; our classrooms are all blessed.
The church and state are partners now, as the Founders all thought best.
And if your kid's not Christian, there is no need to be stressed,
We'll let them sit outside until they're no longer possessed.

Our monitors in bathrooms are checking private parts,
While trans kids try in vain to hide the pain that's in their hearts.
We'll snoop into your files, your diaries, and your charts.
And SCOTUS will support us -- at least the six with smarts.

We believe in local control,
So long as you locals obey.
We won't abide your vitriol,
Painting us as anti-gay.
We care about you, heart and soul,
Well, some of you, anyway.

We fret about antisemitism, cover for our asses.
It lets us micromanage college hiring and classes.
It's our decision now: who's admitted and who passes.
We relish the unhappiness of those who this harasses.

We must address diversity -- for those who are blue-eyed,
And terrorize them immigrants -- better ICE'd than DEI'd.
We've found our scapegoats, thank the Lord, they're all now terrified.
It's easier than building schools where kids feel dignified.

We believe in local control,
So long as you locals obey.
While all your lawyers whack-a-mole,
And your hopes just slip away.
With “slavery” down the memory hole,
We’ll glorify the U.S.A.

We let the states decide, of course, but strongly recommend,
They cut the costs by cutting kids (they must not overspend).
Now vouchers fund the faithful schools, where morals never bend.
And every classroom’s safe again for those we let attend.

The data nerds have been dismissed, with their evidence and facts,
No funding for researchers through our grants or our contracts.
We can’t see how such changes might have negative impacts.
Yet that whiney old professor gripes and overreacts.

We believe in local control,
So long as you locals obey.
We found a clever loophole,
That’s our autocratic way.
We’ll proclaim, coax and cajole,
And you’ll do just what we say.

NEPC Resources on Politics, Policy, and School Practices

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