

Peter Simonson, Executive Director Tim Macdonald, Legal Director

December 4, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

Principal		
	Elementary	School

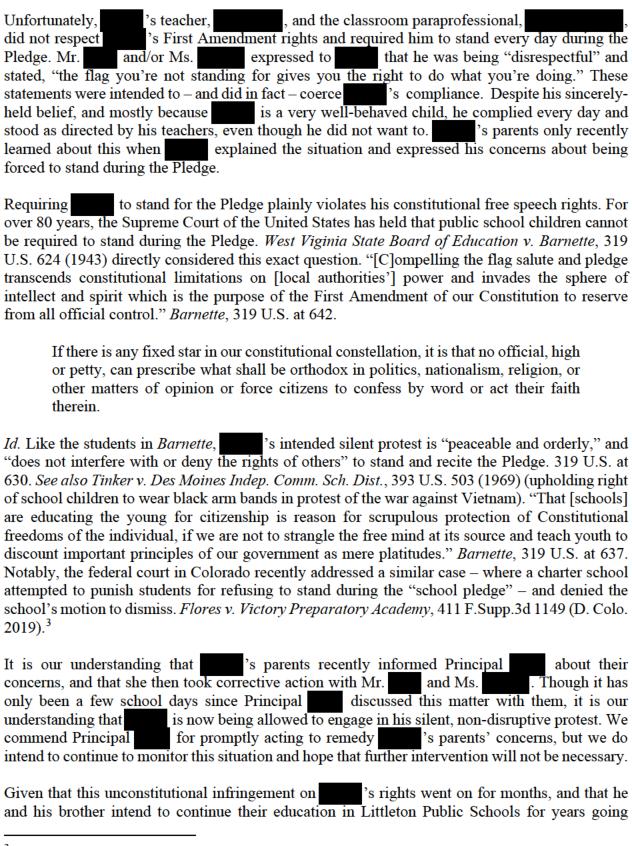
Todd Lambert Superintendent Littleton Public Schools tlambert@lps.k12.co.us

Re: Pledge of Allegiance

Dear Principal and Superintendent Lambert, The ACLU of Colorado was contacted by , the parents of Elementary School , regarding a violation of his First Amendment free speech rights. Beginning this school year, intended to decline to stand during the Pledge of Allegiance each morning as a protest against unjust immigration enforcement. 's grandparents are immigrants and naturalized citizens, his father is a person of color who was born in the United States, and himself is biracial. Members of states 's family are like many of the people who are being targeted by ICE during enforcement sweeps and raids across the country. Though 's parents are trying to protect him from the news, cannot help but learn what is going on both nationally and in Colorado. 1 has real concerns for both his friends and family and his older brother, , who attends about immigration enforcement. Thus, Middle School, both decided to silently protest ICE enforcement this school year by refusing to stand or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.²

¹ Of course, in neighboring Douglas County, a beloved teacher was recently deported. *See* S. Klamann, "Douglas County teacher arrested by ICE leaves country with family," DENVER POST, Nov. 17, 2025, available at: https://www.denverpost.com/2025/11/17/douglas-county-teacher-arrest-immigration-deportation/.

² Notably, to date, has been allowed to remain seated at the middle school during the Pledge without incident.



³ Ultimately, the school reportedly paid almost \$500,000 to settle this litigation. "Victory Prep Charter School Refuses to Reveal Settlement in First Amendment Lawsuit," CBS COLORADO, Jan. 22, 2020, available at: https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/victory-prep-settlement-lawsuit/.

forward, we strongly suggest that the district provide its teachers with training regarding the proper application of the First Amendment in the classroom. *Barnette* and *Tinker* have long been clearly-established law and have been applied in public schools for decades. Thus, we would respectfully suggest that your teachers could benefit from some basic training regarding students' fundamental free speech rights. While we do not expect teachers to be constitutional lawyers, the right to engage in peaceable, non-disruptive political speech is easily understood and applied.

Sincerely,

Scott Medlock Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU of Colorado

Cc: