

# RYAN WALTERS' INNER CIRCLE

## CHAYA RAICHIK

Chaya Raichik, creator of the hate-mongering social media account @LibsofTikTok, has not only been praised by Ryan Walters, but he has also shared her content through his social channels. Her account proudly features posts targeting Oklahoma schools that support LGBTQ+ youth. Following one of Raichik's posts, a school outside Tulsa was targeted with bomb threats for six days in a row. Despite Raichik not having a background in education, nor having any ties to Oklahoma, Walters named her to the Oklahoma Library Media Advisory Committee, where she has worked to censor and limit access to books depicting LGBTQ+ people and sex education.

**MOMS** *for*  
★ **LIBERTY** ★

## MOMS FOR LIBERTY

Moms for Liberty, listed as an anti-government group by the Southern Poverty Law Center and linked to White nationalist militia and extremist groups, was praised by Ryan Walters as the "the most patriotic, pro-American group in the country right now." In 2023, Moms for Liberty advocated for book bans, quoted Hitler in newsletters, and were overwhelmingly rejected at the ballot box. Walters spent Oklahoma taxpayer money to attend the Moms for Liberty National Summit in Philadelphia, where he advocated for eliminating the U.S. Department of Education.

## BETSY DEVOS

Former Education Secretary under the Trump Administration Betsy DeVos donated thousands of dollars to Ryan Walters' 2022 campaign for Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Instruction. DeVos praised Walters and predicted good things to come for Oklahoma schools with him at the helm. As Education Secretary, DeVos withdrew important guidance that protected transgender students from discrimination, rejected civil rights complaints from LGBTQ students, and refused to rule out sending federal funding to schools that discriminate against admitting LGBTQ+ students. Her family has also long funded anti-LGBTQ+ organizations.

## OK STATE SEN. TOM WOODS

Oklahoma State Sen. Tom Woods has been an outspoken proponent of Ryan Walters' dangerous agenda. When questioned about Walters' policies creating an unsafe learning environment for Oklahoma LGBTQ+ students, and further what he thought about the death of Nex Benedict, Woods said he "...doesn't want that filth in Oklahoma."

## U.S. SENATOR TED CRUZ

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas proudly endorsed Ryan Walters for Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2022. Like Walters, Cruz supports "Don't Say LGBTQ+" laws and government involvement in the medical care of transgender youth. Both Walters and Cruz frequently elevate the dangerous and extreme rhetoric of @LibsofTikTok, which Cruz called a "fabulous" account.

## FLORIDA GOV. RON DESANTIS

Ryan Walters said he was in regular contact with the team of Florida Governor and champion of the "Don't Say LGBTQ+" legislation", Ron DeSantis, specifically seeking the Governor's advice about the best methods to remove DEI programs from schools. Walters' sees DeSantis' anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-DEI school policies in Florida as a model for Oklahoma schools to follow.

## THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

President Kevin Roberts of the far-right think tank the Heritage Foundation praised Ryan Walters' "courage" and "cheerfulness." Walters appeared in a Heritage Foundation video about winning "the war for the minds of kids," while also speaking at a summit hosted by Heritage Foundation partner organization and staunch anti-LGBTQ+ advocates, the Family Research Council, to support Biblically based curriculum in schools.

## RICHARD UIHLEIN

Illinois-based GOP megadonor and billionaire Richard Uihlein has donated millions of dollars over the last decade to campaigns that oppose basic LGBTQ+ rights and attract extreme right-wing candidates. Uihlein is a major backer of the 1776 Project PAC and a significant contributor to Walters' 2022 campaign for Superintendent. The PAC donated thousands of dollars to help Walters' advance its conservative ideology.

