THE ARTICLE III PROJECT

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Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Request for Civil Rights Investigation into Senator Elissa Slotkin's Threats of Legal and Professional Retaliation Against Young Conservatives

Dear Assistant Attorney General Dhillon:

I write to request that the Civil Rights Division initiate an investigation into Senator Elissa Slotkin for her recent remarks at the University of Chicago and determine whether her statements warrant further action under federal law. Her reported comments raise a disturbing prospect: that the legal system and professional disciplinary machinery could be turned into weapons against Americans who do nothing more than work for an administration that Slotkin and her allies dislike.

Senator Slotkin described—on video—a strategy of targeting not only the President of the United States, but also individuals associated with the President's administration, including junior personnel and young professionals.[1] She explicitly stated that this effort would not be in the pursuit of justice, but rather as a means of deterring young people from serving in the federal government under President Trump.

In light of pushback over these horrific comments, Slotkin doubled down. She stated "[I]f you use the justice system for frivolous lawsuits used to intimidate and jail your political opponents; you should be held accountable for that via your bar status."[2] She admits that lawyers should be stripped of their professional qualifications for merely filing a lawsuit.

If these accounts accurately reflect her statements and intentions, they deserve far more than a passing glance. The threat of legal harassment or professional ruin should never become a

[1] See minute 32, UChicago Institute of Politics, "Senator Elissa Slotkin: Live Recording of America, Actually!" YouTube video, 31:40, accessed October 20, 2026, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrOaYchwJ4w.
[2] Elissa Slotkin (@ElissaSlotkin), "This man, @mrddmia, who is suggesting….," X, October 19, 2026, https://x.com/ElissaSlotkin/status/2112205680190894208.

political instrument for driving disfavored Americans out of public service or the court system. Merely working for the political opposition is not grounds for legal troubles. Filing a lawsuit is not grounds for losing one's professional credentials.[3]

The Constitution protects Americans against government retaliation for their political beliefs and lawful association. While it is permissible to punish truly unethical conduct, that was not what Slotkin described as her goal. There is a profound difference between holding individuals accountable for actual misconduct and threatening legal or professional punishment to discourage an entire class of Americans from participating in government. The Civil Rights Division should determine whether the conduct at issue crosses that line. I believe it does.

These concerns do not arise in isolation. A September 2026 report by Democracy Restored[4] describes a coordinated effort to turn bar complaints into weapons of political warfare—not merely to punish individual attorneys, but to make an example of them. The playbook is straightforward: file complaints, generate headlines, inflict financial and reputational damage, and send a warning to every other lawyer who might consider representing a conservative client. The intended message is unmistakable: take the wrong case, and your career could become the next target. When professional discipline becomes a vehicle for political intimidation, the damage reaches far beyond the attorneys themselves. It threatens every American's ability to find a lawyer willing to take an unpopular case and defend their rights.

The recent BARFARE: Stopping Bar Discipline as Political Warfare summit at Bellator Hall on Capitol Hill, featuring legal leaders and U.S. Senators Mike Lee and Eric Schmitt, addressed these same concerns.[5] One of the presenters, Karin Sweigart, mapped political ties and funding to places like Media Matters, which apparently contributed $16.4 million to smear conservative attorneys to their state bars.

Right on clue, Slotkin affirmed everything the report and symposium suggested to be true. This is the goal of Slotkin and others who agree with her. It is akin to the very fascism they purport to oppose.

A sitting United States Senator should understand the gravity of advocating legal and professional consequences for political opponents. Public officials are free to criticize their adversaries, challenge their arguments, and pursue legitimate remedies for actual wrongdoing. They should not use the prospect of prosecution, litigation, or professional disbarment to frighten young Americans away from public service or to deprive political opponents of effective legal

[3] Slotkin, of course, knows that the judicial system already has mechanisms to take care of frivolous lawsuits (dismissal, sanctions, etc.). But that clearly isn't her aim.
[4] Democracy Restored, "Shame Them and Make Them Toxic": The Left's Campaign to Attack Its Political Opponents Using Lawfare and Barfare (September 2026), https://www.democracyrestored.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2026/09/Democracy_Restored_Lawfare_Report.pdf.
[5] Jim Thomas, "GOP Sens. Join Summit on Discipline of Trump Lawyers," *Newsmax*, September 30, 2026, https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/barfare-trump-discipline/2026/09/30/id/1271185/.

representation. If the reported remarks reflect an effort to accomplish precisely that, the matter warrants serious scrutiny.

Accordingly, I urge the Civil Rights Division to review Senator Slotkin's statements, examine the relevant supporting evidence, and open an investigation if warranted. The same should be done for her staff, donors, and colleagues.

I respectfully request that the Civil Rights Division take these allegations seriously and act where the evidence and the law warrant. Political power is not a license to intimidate. And the civil rights of Americans do not depend on whether their politics are fashionable in Washington.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

/s/ Mike Davis
Founder & President
Article III Project