

Washington State Domestic Extremism & Mass Violence Task Force – September 26, 2025
Public Comments – Received by September 25, 2025 at 5pm PST

Sharon Damoff	<p>Dear Domestic Extremism and Mass Violence Task Force members, At your meetings, a task force member has repeatedly said that Washington state is one of the worst states in the country for white supremacy and that Snohomish County is the worst county in the state for white supremacy. I have lived in Snohomish County for fifteen years, and -- I have never seen white supremacists take over a freeway or a park or a campus quad. -- I have never seen white supremacists cause \$1 million in damages to a campus building. -- I have never seen white supremacists cause any damage to any building. -- I have never seen white supremacist graffiti. -- I have never seen white supremacists hold any rally. -- I have never heard of any white supremacist group active here. So if Snohomish County is the worst county in one of the worst states, we should celebrate that there is virtually no problem with white supremacy. Unfortunately, other forms of domestic extremism and violence are all too common and obvious in our state. --Anti-Semitic groups have taken over freeways and campus buildings. --BLM activists have taken over parks and city blocks and caused massive damage. --Antifa and trantifa have repeatedly caused graffiti and other property damage and attacked journalists. --Tesla cars and dealerships have been damaged. --Pregnancy centers have been firebombed and graffitied. The draft report you have produced talks about the process of radicalization, which is good. But parts of your report are shockingly biased. In particular, the listing of the history of extremism in Washington (pp 13-14) is outrageous in what it leaves out. Astoundingly, in those pages you do not mention a single instance of the violence that has occurred from the left. Here are some of the incidents you omitted, just from the last 5 years: In the summer of 2020, there was massive BLM rioting, burning, looting, and property damage in Seattle. --Police cars were set on fire, and officers were attacked. --Businesses had to close because of rioters and looting. --Several city blocks were taken over and renamed CHOP/CHAZ, with 2 murders and other instances of violence, including rape. --A police precinct was abandoned. --A Snohomish County councilmember posted “Be the light you want to see” with a picture of a Molotov cocktail. I find it shocking and dishonest that your report omits all the BLM violence from the summer of 2020, and instead mentions just one incident from September 2020, where a black-owned business was vandalized. You should be embarrassed by that level of bias. Your report also does not mention all the anti-Semitic rioting, takeovers, graffiti, and violence that have happened over the last two years. You mentioned attacks against an abortion clinic in the 1980s, but you failed to mention the attacks on pro-life centers in the last few years, including a pro-life center in Lynnwood that was fire-bombed and graffitied with death threats. In</p>
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reality, the most violence is coming from the left, but your listing on pages 13-14 does not mention a single instance of leftist violence. It is outrageous that your report presents the problem in such an untrue way. It is obvious that many on the left are radicalized, and the problem is getting worse, in Washington and around the country. Just two weeks ago, Charlie Kirk was assassinated. The killer had written antifa and trantifa messages on the bullet casings. The killing was evil and shocking enough, but what really demonstrates the extent to which people on the left are radicalized was the widespread celebrating after the killing. To see teachers and medical professionals openly celebrating a political assassination should be alarming to all of you. We are in a very bad place when many thousands (millions?) of people think murder is an appropriate, even good, response to speech they disagree with. People want to “both sides” political violence, but it is clearly asymmetrical. --The amount of violence is far worse from the left. --The celebration when violence does happen is more prevalent from the left. --There was no rioting or looting or violence from the right after the assassination of Kirk. There were candlelight vigils and prayers. When asked if the murder of Donald Trump would be justified, 55 percent of left-of-center people said that it would be at least partially justified. In another study, when college students were asked if “using violence to stop a campus speech” is acceptable, 34 percent said yes in 2025, up from fewer than 20 percent in 2020 (which was still shockingly high). The study reported that students “furthest to the left have been the most accepting of violence for as long as we’ve asked the question.” <https://x.com/shellenberger/status/1966615944475599259> People on the left are being radicalized at an alarming pace. Inappropriate and inflammatory rhetoric is coming from the highest levels of the Democratic party, including from the most recent Democrat presidential and vice presidential candidates (Harris just recently called Trump a fascist again, and Walz calls ICE the Gestapo, when actually ICE are the people tasked with enforcing the laws our own Congress passed), all the way down to regular people posting on X and Facebook (doctors and teachers openly celebrating a political assassination). I know Trump just said at Charlie Kirk’s memorial that he hates his opponents, but he did that primarily to be self-deprecating—to admit that he is not as good of a person as Erika Kirk, who had just said she forgave her husband’s killer. Also, there is an enormous difference between saying you hate your opponents and calling your opponents Hitler, considered the most evil person in history. The left has got to stop calling Trump and his supporters Nazis, fascists, Hitler. They are not those things. But calling them those things makes certain unhinged people think they are justified in killing them. Charlie Kirk’s killer wrote, “Hey fascist, catch!” on one of the casings. If any of you think Charlie Kirk was a fascist or hateful person, please just watch three or four of his videos, and you will see how wrong you are. He talked to people who disagreed with him with respect and humor. Here is just a sampling of the violence from the left in recent years: --Trump assassination attempt in Butler, PA. --

	<p>Trump assassination attempt in FL. --Assassination of Charlie Kirk in UT. --Trans person killing 6 at Christian school in Nashville. --Trans person killing 2, wounding 17 at Catholic church in Minneapolis. --Killing of insurance executive in NYC. --2 killed by Hamas supporter outside Jewish museum in DC. --PA governor’s mansion burned by Hamas supporter, with Jewish governor and family inside. --Numerous antifa and pro-Hamas riots and takeovers. --Numerous attacks on ICE officers and facilities. That’s just a sampling—there are many more. Those are the shocking events, but even when you look upstream in the radicalization process, you see things you didn’t used to see. In Everett, every Monday a group of Democrats show up outside the Snohomish County GOP office to harass and intimidate the workers there. They shout at them, write things on the sidewalk, and tape signs to the office windows. There is no purpose other than harassment and intimidation. They have been doing this for many months, when it is not even an election season. Young people are in antifa, regularly attacking ICE facilities and federal courthouses. Multiple female reporters covering the attacks on ICE have been sprayed with bear spray and assaulted in other ways. Older people are in Indivisibles, holding weekly protests month after month. Normally, older people are not violent, but I just saw a video of a woman very aggressively using a stick to beat an effigy of Trump, while she was wearing a shirt that said Make America Kind Again on the front and had the Golden Rule on the back—the irony apparently lost on her. She was obviously a step or two along the radicalization process to want to hit something so aggressively and violently. It was just an effigy that day, but will it be a Trump supporter the next time? Sixty-year-old women didn’t used to violently beat things. Just this week, people out gathering signatures for initiatives have been attacked by trans activists, with completed signature sheets being stolen or destroyed. This is not a “both sides” issue; it is highly asymmetrical. There’s a little from the right and a lot from the left. Your task force ought to be a vehicle for addressing the violence and ongoing radicalization we see all around us, but instead the report is highly misleading about the violence that is happening and has no sense of urgency about stopping the killing. Something needs to be done immediately to stop the escalating violence. Thank you, Sharon Damoff</p>
<p>Lisa Templeton, Informed Choice Washington</p>	<p>Members of the Task Force, Your agenda on constitutional principles and civil liberties is the proper foundation for this work—and it should guide both your definitions and your recommendations. Framing dissent or public health criticism as a “public health problem” risks converting lawful advocacy into a surveillance target, inviting mission creep and chilling protected civic participation. Washington’s Constitution provides clear, independent protections. • Art. I, §4 — Right of petition and assemblage: “The right of petition and of the people peaceably to assemble for the common good shall never be abridged.” • Art. I, §5 — Freedom of speech: “Every person may freely speak, write and publish on all subjects...” (with responsibility for abuse). • Art. I, §7 — Private affairs: “No person shall be disturbed in his private</p>

	<p>affairs... without authority of law.” This privacy clause is robust and independent. My request: Adopt explicit guardrails to ensure Task Force recommendations are never used—now or in the future—to label peaceful, law abiding citizens as “domestic terrorists” for disagreeing with those in power. Proposed guardrails</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bright line free speech standard: Limit Task Force recommendations, definitions, training, and any data sharing to conduct that is intended to incite imminent unlawful action and likely to produce it. Peaceful advocacy—including criticism of public health policy, strong rhetoric, or calls for boycotts—must not, by itself, trigger monitoring or referral. 2. No viewpoint discrimination: Ensure policy recommendations are content and viewpoint neutral; criticism of government policy remains protected under Art. I, §§4–5. 3. Privacy & data limits (Art. I, §7): Prohibit collection or retention of identifiers, social media handles, or meeting attendance records absent a documented criminal predicate under state law. Require documented “authority of law,” data minimization, and prompt deletion for non cases. 4. Due process & redress: If any watchlist or flagging mechanism exists, recommend provision of notice and a prompt appeal process to reverse erroneous designations of lawful actors; publish aggregate metrics quarterly. 5. Transparency: Ensure your recommendations commit to OPMA level openness and disclosures. Publish definitions, trainings, MOUs, and metrics so the public can verify neutrality. 6. Narrow tailoring: For any recommendation, direct that it include written findings showing a compelling interest, the least restrictive means, and that no less speech restrictive alternative would work. 7. Sunset & independent review: Recommend a two year sunset and require an independent civil liberties audit before any renewal of policies. 8. Public health framing caution: Reject public health framings that recast dissent as pathology. Public health concerns must address conduct, not protected speech. Washington can lead by showing that public safety and civil liberty are complementary. You can condemn violence while protecting robust debate about public health policy. That is Washington law—and the promise of the First Amendment. Thank you for your time and your fidelity to the Constitution.
Laurie Layne	<p>Hi all I am writing about assassination of Charlie Kirk who I feel was killed for his beliefs! Those who did this hoped to silence freedom of speech . They failed miserably! Unfortunately several made both caustic remarks or celebrated it outright! I honestly can't think of a worse time for this! Several of them lost employment due to this. Because of that terrible behavior. It needs to be firmly challenged! Thanks for your time</p>
Marc Lein	<p>The members of this task force represent the very same forces that murdered Charlie Kirk. This task force is an ideological travesty and should be disbanded following issuing an apology for their very existence.</p>