



CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious
and
Civil Rights*

September 23, 2020

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Hon. Brad Hoylman
Legislative Office Building, Room 310
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Sen. Hoylman:

I am writing to all members of the Standing Committee on Education in the Assembly and the Senate regarding the failure of New York City's Department of Investigation (DOI) to fully vet David Hay, deputy chief of staff to Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza. Hay is a sexual predator who has pleaded guilty to a federal child pornography charge. I am also copying Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal and Senator Brad Hoylman, sponsors of the Child Victims Act.

Hay was fired from the Department of Education after being arrested in December 2019 at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport for attempting to entice a 14-year-old boy to join him in a hot tub for sex in his hotel room. He has a history of such activities, extending back a decade. He has also exchanged child porn pictures with teenage boys; the police found photos of a naked student on his cell phone.

How could someone like Hay get through DOI? Here is how this story was reported in the *New York Post* on September 17, 2020. "Officials have admitted that Hay was never fully vetted by the city's Department of Investigation and blamed the failure on a massive backlog of 6,000 background checks that have plagued the office for years."

This is unconscionable. The deputy chief of staff to the Schools Chancellor undergoes fingerprinting and a criminal database search, and that's it! No doubt the DOI is oversubscribed, but when it comes to school administrators, teachers, and other school personnel—especially at senior levels—they must be treated differently than those applying for jobs in agencies where adult-child interactions are limited.

It is hard to believe the sincerity of those who claim to be exercised about past instances of clergy sexual abuse in the Catholic Church when current instances of the sexual abuse of minors in the public schools is ongoing.

As you know—or should know—those lawyers taking advantage of the Child Victims Act have been very busy seeking to find students who may have been molested in a Catholic school, but have shown almost no interest in pursuing alleged victims in the public schools (never mind those abused in the home by live-in boyfriends and stepdads). And now we have the specter of a sexual predator who is a senior official in the Department of Education sliding past the DOI.

You are in a position to rectify this outrageous injustice. Please do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William A. Donohue".

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.

President

cc: Cardinal Timothy Dolan