



ODP, Innovation Ohio Call for Terhar's Resignation

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The Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) and Innovation Ohio called for the resignation of State Board of Education President Debe Terhar Tuesday in response to controversial comments about President Barack Obama that were reportedly posted on her Facebook page.

The groups both cited an article published by the *Columbus Dispatch* reporting that Terhar posted a photograph of Adolf Hitler with the caption, "Never forget what this tyrant said: 'To conquer a nation, first disarm its citizens.' - Adolf Hitler."

According to the report, Terhar said she was not comparing President Obama to Hitler when she shared the picture that seemed to be a critical response to the administration's revamped gun-control efforts.

"While there is always room for respectful differences in opinions, State School Board President Terhar's Facebook posting crossed a clear line by connecting the president's national discussion on guns to Adolf Hitler," said ODP Chairman Chris Redfern. "President Terhar's invocation of Hitler is dangerous and should not be tolerated by Gov. Kasich and the rest of the state school board.

"In the past, Gov. Kasich has called for more civility in the political debate, and now he has a prime opportunity to back up his words with action. In the absence of a full, formal apology from Terhar, Kasich has a duty to remove his hand-picked state school board president from office. Under no circumstances is it permissible for Gov. Kasich to look the other way while members of his administration use dangerous, inflammatory rhetoric and images to further their political ideology."

Innovation Ohio noted that the photo was shared from the Facebook group "*Uncle Sam's Misguided Children*," which has posts that contain critical and, at times, derogatory comments about the president, his family and his administration. Innovation Ohio called the Facebook group "bogus" and said that the Hitler quote was incorrect.

"It's bad enough that Ms. Terhar would post something that could easily be interpreted as

comparing Adolf Hitler to the president of the United States," said Innovation Ohio's Communications Director Dale Butland. "But for the head of the State Board of Education to post a fraudulent and bogus quote is mind-boggling. What kind of message is sent to Ohio's school children when the state's top education official doesn't even take the time to research the citations she uses in her own social media?

"Beyond that, why is the State Board of Education president trolling racist, right-wing websites and using material from those sites to make a political point? What message does that send to Ohio students?"

Butland also said that Terhar should resign and that Kasich had the responsibility to "speak out."

"Gov. Kasich should point out that dictators don't do elections. And he should remind his fellow Republicans that there's a big difference between losing an election and living under tyranny," he concluded.

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