

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Barr,

We write expressing our concerns regarding the potential exploitation of children in Netflix's recently released film, *Cuties*. We join our Congressional colleagues in urging the Department of Justice (DOJ) to open an investigation to ensure the film and its production uphold federal laws protecting children from exploitation.

Throughout the film, young girls engage in sexually provocative dances, and the film includes at least one scene where a young girl is partially nude. Not only does this raise alarms that these girls may have been exploited in the production of *Cuties*, but the film also creates an environment where the sexual abuse and exploitation of children by pedophiles is normalized. While the Constitution vigorously protects the freedoms of speech and expression, content that victimizes minors is not among these protected forms of content.

In *Jacobellis v. Ohio*, Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart recognized the challenge of establishing a definition of pornography, but as he famously said, "I know it when I see it." It is fair to say that the provocative dances portrayed throughout *Cuties* is an affront to the children's dignity and stimulates the child sex trafficking trade and meets Justice Stewart's definition.

Finally, the Department of Justice should also investigate those involved in the film's casting and production to ensure these children were not exploited behind the scenes. The sexualization and gross objectification of these girls on screen creates an environment that is ripe for individuals to take advantage of these innocent children. As we have seen all too often, the inherent power structure of film production leaves these girls vulnerable to indecent and potentially abusive treatment.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this request. Additionally, we anticipate reviewing the findings of your investigation, as well as any recommendations you have to help prevent the exploitation of children.

Sincerely,

Ken Buck

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs

Andy Biggs
Member of Congress