



CONTACT:
Andrew Kolvet
Olivia Raiff
Press@TPUSA.com
(480) 444-9332

High School Junior Rallies Local Community, National Conservative Leaders to Form TPUSA Chapter After School Barred Group from Campus

*A.J. Ares gathered signatures from 20 percent of the student body and
'flooded administrators inboxes' from concerned citizens*

PHOENIX, DEC. 4, 2020—A.J. Ares had spent his first two years in high school hearing teachers espouse liberal ideologies and opinions in the classroom. This experience spurred him to launch a Turning Point USA chapter at Llano High School in Llano, Texas so he could begin sharing conservative ideas with his peers. Ares was immediately reprimanded by the school's assistant principal for being outspoken about his conservative beliefs. Notably, this was the first time he had ever been punished by his school. Ares didn't let his teachers, or bullying from his classmates that went uncondemned by school administrators, silence him. Ares continued to stand up for his beliefs through the school year and moved forward with plans to form a TPUSA chapter.

Ares thought that Turning Point USA's 501(c)3 status would allow for easy administrative approval and formal recognition. However, the chapter continued to receive pushback from the principal, Scott Patrick, who blocked the initial request. Ares fought back, gathering signatures from over 20 percent of the student body. He also reached out to the superintendent's office. The school administration then requested a Constitution from the newly formed TPUSA chapter executive team for what Ares assumed would be the start of the approval process. After sending the Constitution, all communication went silent.

Ares decided to reach out beyond the school and gained the support of other local and national conservative organizations that reached out to school administrators on the chapter's behalf. The local community also called and "flooded administrators' inboxes" saying that barring the formation of the TPUSA chapter was a violation of student rights and freedom of speech.

The hard work paid off, and on November 17th, Ares received notice that the principal of Llano High School reversed his decision and would allow the Turning Point Chapter to be formally recognized.

"A.J. is a great example of what it means to fight back and defend our God-given and constitutional rights," says Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA. "I'm proud to have created an organization that gives voice to thousands of students just like A.J. who are some of the bravest people in this country. Conservatives must take back the ground we forfeited to the left at our colleges and high

school campuses, and it's victories like these that will add up and make all the difference. Congratulations to A.J. and to our entire organization."

###

About Turning Point USA

Turning Point USA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2012 by Charlie Kirk who was only 19 at the time. The organization's mission is to identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government. Since its founding, Turning Point USA has embarked on a mission to build the most organized, active, and powerful conservative grassroots activist network on college campuses across the country. With a presence on over 2,000 college and high school campuses across the country, Turning Point USA is the largest and fastest-growing youth organization in America.

Website | www.tpusa.com

Twitter | [@TPUSA](https://twitter.com/TPUSA)