

27th of December 2013



To whom it may concern,

I became aware of Federal Trade Commission's investigation of the Music Teachers' National Association via an article in the Wall Street Journal. I must say I am appalled. Firstly, who decided that it was the best use of taxpayer money to investigate the charter of a charitable organization? This charter only suggests that it is not in the best practice to poach students from other teachers. Whoever brought this case forward was completely unaware that this common courtesy between music teachers is to not actively poach students from other teachers, if a student leaves the teacher of their own accord, this is another matter. However it would be *rude*, something I might add the FTC should look it up in the Oxford English Dictionary, as they are obviously ignorant as to the definition of the word, to actively recruit students from another teacher.

Someone then disregarded the fact that the MTNA have not and do not intend to begin enforcing this guideline, and first to investigate MTNA and then harass them to change something that probably only a scarce few members of the MTNA could actually tell existed in their charter. I would like an answer as to how and why this investigation was pursued by the FTC as violation of anticompetitive practices that needed to be stopped. Given the dreadful state of musical education in America, how did the FTC discover that there was a Music Teachers' National Association? Secondly, who trolled through their charter to find this "offending clause" and then it was allowed by some idiotic superior to be pursued as a case by FTC agents and lawyers? An investigation that is causing a charitable organization to spend money that had probably been allotted to better causes on legal fees, and to force them to remove this "offending clause" and other actions deemed appropriate to stop these so-called rapacious piano teachers plaguing this country by charging 30\$ an hour for trying to teach a child music. Ohh gosh save us all! This is an utter disaster that the Obama administration must save us from, because if a child plays "*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*" on a piano who knows what will happen, they might decide to play more music! Save the Children!

As a taxpayer, i.e. the person that pays your salary I would like to know why there is even an investigation? As the MTNA is a charitable organization, so the FTC has next to no authority over charities, this begs the question why is the FTC harassing this organization? Do they not have anything better to do with their time, some actual violation of antitrust practices, perhaps? I would suggest the FTC return to its proper sphere immediately and issue an apology to MTNA; and

consider refunding the MTNA's legal costs for in recompense for the unjust persecution of the MTNA, lest they decide to bring an action for any legal misconduct by FTC.

Sincerely,

Caroline Peppe