

May 2, 2023

Dear Governor Newsom,

When defining what a governor is, two terms stand out to us from the dictionary; Ruler and chief executive. When we define a governor, our terms are leader and representative. As an elected governor, you are a representative of the people of our state. However, your press conference on May 1st proved otherwise. When asked “Is your office doing anything to support the search efforts of the recovery of Kyle’s body and have you personally been able to speak to Kyle’s parents, Lindsay and Brian Doan?” Your response broke our hearts. Not only did you not answer the questions, but you were untruthful doing so.

We are not naïve or too young to be unaware of the old saying that “All politicians lie”. Nor did we ever imagine that we would be directly insulted or heartbroken by a response given by the leader of our state. You claimed that you were “here” in the very beginning of search efforts, a couple days after our tragedy occurred. While I understand that “here” can be used loosely, we do not consider Santa Cruz to be remotely close to “here”. It is not a neighboring county, let alone, the county that we’re physically located in. If you are even just a little familiar with the geographical locations in the state in which you serve as a leader for, you would’ve known that San Miguel is located in San Luis Obispo County, approximately two and a half hours away from Santa Cruz, which you held press conferences. One of those press conferences was in the presence of our president. By the very mention that you were “here” gives our citizens the false impression that you somehow cared enough about our son and tragedy. While, we can’t speak on whether or not you care, we can say that you blatantly lied and used Kyle’s disappearance to shed positive light on yourself for professional gain. By your response, the average person would infer that you cared so much to make the trip to San Miguel to see the operations and search efforts firsthand. You have in fact not done so. As an elected official, you do not have the right to use Kyle’s name to allow the public to believe that you cared and went out of your way to understand and observe search efforts. This would then lead one to believe that you are a great leader who was invested in the search. While you may personally care and state that Kyle is a “number one priority” you have demonstrated that you are vain. Such a lie is beyond hurtful and disrespectful to Kyle and our family.

Your response was a replay of what was stated at your press conferences in Santa Cruz. While we understand that these questions were unexpected and therefore did not provide you time to rehearse or prepare for, it was the worst response that you could’ve possibly provided. As a teacher, I often receive unexpected questions. Sometimes, the appropriate and honest answers to questions that you are unprepared for is admission that you are unaware or unknowledgeable about the issue, but would happily defer the questioner to the appropriate entities. Similarly, your response to the second question should’ve more appropriately been “No, I have not personally contacted the family, but my office has spoken with them in previous months.” Instead, your response was disrespectful and hurtful to our son and family.

We suggest retracting your previous words, while turning lies to truth. While this may be your last term in office, you have created a situation that will forever be imprinted in our minds and many citizens. I would also suggest that if you truly cared and if Kyle is indeed the “number one priority”, you take the time to put action to what you’ve already claimed to do and actually visit the creek and river in order to have a full understanding of the situation. Our family is left with a loss that we can never get back. We are frustrated with the lack of searches and now with the word salad that is being used in press conferences. Promises have been made, but not followed up on. It will soon be four months and it feels like an eternity. Summer is coming and the condition of anything that might be recovered under the sand will not resemble anything of our baby once the heat dries up our earth. Put action to your words. Stop lying and give our baby and family the same respect that you demand for yourself.

Sincerely,
Lindsay & Brian Doan