

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202

OS-EXEC. SEC.  
2017 SEP 12 AM 9 52

**Re: Docket ID ED-2017-OS-0074-0001**

Dear Secretary DeVos:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. This vital law affects all areas of education, including: recruitment, admissions and housing; pregnant and parenting students; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); sexual harassment and assault; and athletics. It requires recipients of federal education funding to evaluate their current policies and practices, adopt and publish a policy against sex discrimination, and implement grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee discrimination complaints.

I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in urging the Department of Education to protect Title IX, preserve all of its current regulations and guidance, and fully enforce the law.

Unfortunately, many students still do not have access to an equitable education free from sex discrimination. AAUW research found that 56 percent of girls and 40 percent of boys in grades 7-12 face sexual harassment. Of that number, 87 percent said it had a negative effect on them. In addition, girls have 1.2 million fewer chances to play sports in high school than boys. Less than two-thirds of African American and Hispanic girls play sports, while more than three-quarters of Caucasian girls do. Pregnant and parenting students are often steered toward separate, less rigorous schools. Just 12 percent of engineers are women, and the number of women in computing has fallen from 35 percent in 1990 to just 26 percent today.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education has a long history of ensuring technical assistance and fair enforcement of federal civil rights laws, including Title IX. For decades, students and advocates have called on OCR to enforce Title IX, and its long-standing regulations and guidance.

As Secretary of Education, you have the power to address this critical civil rights issue and help make schools safer and more equitable for all students. I join with AAUW in urging the Department of Education to keep in place current Title IX guidance and regulations and fully enforce the law.

Thank you,

Mark Bousquet  
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This letter included 6,314 additional signatures.