



Re: Docket ID# ED-2017-OS-0074

September 19, 2017

Dear Secretary DeVos,

The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) believes that every student deserves a great education and to feel safe and welcomed in their classrooms. When a school or a school district doesn't treat students fairly and allows discrimination, civil rights laws require the Department of Education to step in. In order to make sure that schools understand what the law requires of them, and to make sure that everyone understands the protections students have, regulations (or rules) and guidance have been developed to clarify the law. NAPE supports our civil rights laws and these tools that help to make sure students receive the protections and supports they deserve.

Our education system is unfair to too many students and communities. Students who are Black, Latino, Asian American, Native American, immigrants, English learners, girls, LGBTQ or students with disabilities face too many barriers to educational success. We need to use all of the tools we can to change that problem and make sure ALL children get the education they deserve. Now is not the time to take these tools away or weaken them. **NAPE opposes any effort to rescind, modify or replace regulations and guidance that clarify our civil rights and education laws.**

NAPE is a consortium of state and local agencies, corporations, and national organizations committed to the advancement of equity and diversity in classrooms and workplaces. NAPE conducts professional development, research, technical assistance and advocacy that build the capacity of educators to implement effective solutions for increasing student access, educational equity and diversity. We believe that if women, underrepresented minorities and persons with disabilities were prepared to work in STEM careers in proportion to their current workforce engagement, high-tech labor demands could be met, US global competitiveness would improve, global challenge could be better addressed, and women's economic power would increase, leading to stronger families. Current civil rights laws and the policies, regulations and practices currently in place are working toward creating equitable learning environments where every student can succeed.

It's the Department of Education's job to help our nation's schools provide high-quality education for all children. America should be a place where every child, no matter their unique challenges, their unique needs, or where they come from, can grow up to be what they dream.

Sincerely,

Mimi Lufkin  
Chief Executive Office