



September 20, 2017

Hilary Malawer  
Assistant General Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 6E231  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Re: Docket ID: ED-2017-OS-0074, Evaluation of Existing Regulations

Dear Ms. Malawer:

The Advocacy Center of Louisiana (AC) writes in response to the referenced docket number. AC is a non-profit organization designated to operate the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system and Client Assistance Program for individuals with disabilities in the State of Louisiana. Education and vocational rehabilitation together form a cornerstone of the collection of rights our federal law provides people with disabilities. The regulations promulgated and implemented by the Department of Education are a critical to enabling individuals with disabilities to gain meaningful education, employment, and independence while in school and throughout their lives.

The network of federal rights surrounding education exists largely due to legislation passed by the U.S. Congress. These laws have been challenged and upheld in courts; they have been reauthorized and amended in service of a broad policy of equity in public education, for students with and without disability. Federal education legislation exists specifically and purposefully as a remedy to past and a protection against ongoing discrimination.

We believe the following laws are crucial in ensuring equity and correcting discrimination in Louisiana's educational systems:

- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Every Student Succeeds Act
- Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

AC knows of no regulations promulgated pursuant to these laws that are appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification under Executive Order 13777, the premise of which is deeply flawed. Regulations currently under review by the Task Force were created, implemented, and sometimes amended through a procedure prescribed by the Administrative Procedures Act. This process is deliberate, open, and provides citizens and stakeholders with ample opportunity to comment on proposed regulation.

Periodic reconsideration of regulations is warranted and necessary, but we reject the notion that regulations should be targeted simply because they exist or because there may be some burden associated with compliance. The Task Force should reject any regulatory amendments achieved without the same careful consideration provided during the process of promulgation.

The regulations and non-regulatory guidance issued pursuant to the statutes listed above enforce equity and non-discrimination in this country's educational programs. They exist to meet critical needs, and we oppose any effort to repeal, replace, or modify these regulations pursuant to Executive Order 13777.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 504-522-2337. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kim Y. Jones  
Executive Director