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Dear Secretary DeVos,

As a Parent & Advocate I believe all children deserve a great education and to feel safe and welcomed in their classrooms. When a school or a school district treats students unfairly and allows discrimination, as has occurred to my children, 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 and guidance have been developed over the past several years to clarify the law. These laws have brought the necessary change and taken us closer to equality of education for all students. I support our civil rights laws and the guidance tools that help to make sure students receive the protections and supports they need and are entitled to receive.

Our education system remains unfair to far too many students. We need to use all of the tools we can to solve this problem and make sure ALL children receive the education they deserve. Now is not the time to take these tools away or weaken them. I oppose any effort to rescind, modify or replace regulations and guidance that clarify our civil rights and education laws.

My children rely on these regulations and guidance to safeguard their civil rights as individuals with disabilities. My daughter has been told by her public school staff that bullying about her disability is good because it will motivate her to try harder. Another daughter has been denied needed accomodations for visual impairments because our school district relied on an overly narrow definition of visual impairment in violation of federal law. It's the Department of Education's job to help our nation's schools provide high-quality education for all children, including children with disabilites like mine. 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. I share the dream that one day this will be our reality.

Thank you for your daily work on behalf of all of our children. Please safeguard all of the protections currently in place for our children as we work together for greater educational equality across our nation.

Sincerely,

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Sarah Davis