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September 19, 2017

Ms. Hilary Malawer
400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 6E231
Washington, DC 20202

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

To Whom It May Concern:

As the world's largest LGBT organization and service provider, we believe that all students deserve 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 required 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 over the past several years to clarify the law. We support 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 LGBTQ, Black, Latino, Asian American, Native American, immigrants, English learners, girls, or students with disabilities face too many barriers to educational success. We need to use all the tools we can to change that problem and make sure ALL students get the education they deserve. Now is not the time to take these tools away or weaken them. We oppose any effort to rescind, modify or replace regulations and guidance that clarify and enhance our civil rights and education laws.

The Los Angeles LGBT Center provides more services for LGBT people than anywhere else in the world receiving an average of 42,000 clients visits a month. Amongst our many social services, we run a dynamic youth center, a thriving anti-violence project and a national campaign that works with school districts across the country to uplift safe and supportive school environments. In this dynamic role, we see first-hand the challenges LGBTQ youth face in our school systems, and we know that LGBTQ students are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault, misconduct and violence. The 2016 Youth Risk Behavior Survey reported that lesbian, gay, and bisexual high school students were 3x more likely to have been forced to have sexual intercourse than their heterosexual peers. Furthermore, data from the Association of American Universities showed that students who identified as transgender, gender queer or non-binary had the highest rates of sexual assault amongst both undergraduate and graduate students. Any rollback of Title IX protections for student survivors will

undoubtedly serve to undermine the dignity of LGBTQ student survivors making it dangerous to report violence and drastically altering the way they experience their school environments.

It's the Department of Education's job to help our nation's schools provide high-quality education for all students. We urge you not to roll-back these protections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terra Slavin", with a stylized, flowing script.

Terra Slavin

Deputy Director of Policy & Community Building
Los Angeles LGBT Center