

## Press Release



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# **Civil and Human Rights Community Condemns Rescission of Title IX Guidance Clarifying Protections for Transgender Students**

*WASHINGTON – Today The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the National Center for Transgender Equality, GLSEN, the National Women’s Law Center, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, and MALDEF issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration’s rescission of Title IX guidance, which clarifies protections for transgender students under the law:*

“The U.S. Department of Education has a critical and well-established role in clarifying and enforcing civil rights protections for all students. The department has an obligation to ensure that all students have equal educational opportunities, a mandate that applies regardless of a student’s gender identity. Transgender students who face discrimination in schools have worse educational outcomes, and poorer psychological well-being than their cisgender peers.

The guidance released by the Departments of Justice and Education last May clarified for school districts across the country that transgender students are protected under Title IX, an existing federal civil rights law that protects students from discrimination based on sex. The guidance presented best practices from schools across the country and advised schools on complying with the law. School districts received much-needed clarification that, under federal law, they must treat students equally and with dignity, consistent with their gender identity. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of transgender students received a clear message: the law was on their side.

By rescinding the guidance today, the Trump administration has taken the opposite stance. They have sent a deeply troubling message to students that the administration will not stand up for students’ civil rights. We condemn the administration’s decision, vow to fight to enforce Title IX, which continues to protect transgender students, and call on individual schools and districts to treat students consistent with their gender identity and consistent with the rescinded guidance that accurately explained the law.”

*The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States. The Leadership Conference works toward an America as good as its ideals. For more information on The Leadership Conference and its 200-plus member organizations, visit [www.civilrights.org](http://www.civilrights.org).*

NOTE: Since this statement was first released to the press, additional signers have been added. As of September 18, 2017, signers to this statement are:

American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Federation of Teachers  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees  
Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
Anti-Defamation League  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Children's Defense Fund  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Education Law Center-PA  
Educators for Excellence  
Family Equality Council  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Lambda Legal  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Muslim Advocates  
NAACP  
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Education Association  
National LGBTQ Task Force  
National Urban League  
People For the American Way  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
TASH

TNTP  
The Trevor Project