Dear Secretary DeVos,

As a career educator in public schools of Virginia, and a teacher of teachers at The Ohio State University, I am very concerned about the quality of education and the welcoming nature of schools that serve the nation’s children. I support our civil rights laws and the regulations and guidance that help to make sure students receive the protections and supports they deserve.

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. The rhetoric of hate coming from the White House exacerbates these issues for the most vulnerable students.

We need to use all of the tools we can to change these problems and make sure ALL children get 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.**

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,

Rosanne W. Fortner, 45-year veteran teacher