**Transgender Students Facing Erasure from Schools under Trump**

Dear Friends,

***[BREAKING](http://www.transequality.org/press/releases/trump-admin-attacks-trans-students-rejects-education-leaders-views" \t "_blank): On February 10, just two days after Jeff Sessions was sworn in as Attorney General, the Department of Justice took a first step toward dropping their defense of the transgender student guidance in court. While the guidance is still in place, this is a major signal that Attorney General Jeff Sessions is likely planning to stop defending the guidance entirely and may try to reverse the guidance. It is more important than ever to take action now to stop this from happening.***

**– National Center for Transgender Equality**

A federal judge in Texas has ordered the ***Department of Education to temporarily stop investigating complaints related to trans students’ restroom and locker room access***. Within two days of starting his job, Attorney General Jeff Sessions with the support of the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, have started to **backtrack** from defending the guidance in court, indicating that the federal government may stop defending against the lawsuit entirely. Technically speaking, the other parts of the guidance, not dealing with restrooms or locker rooms, are still in effect and the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights can still investigate complaints relating to those other types of discrimination. Right now, you can still complain directly to them (see link 1, below).

During the Presidential transition, **Vice President Pence and others associated with the Trump administration have said that they plan on reversing that guidance**. As of now, **that has not happened**—but as noted above, Jeff Sessions and Betsy DeVos are indicating they **might** no longer defend that guidance in court. The National Center for Transgender Equality is fighting to make sure that the new administration doesn’t take away this guidance. Even if the new administration does roll back the guidance,**that can’t change the Title IX law**itself—and it doesn’t change those federal court opinions that say the law protects trans students.

There’s great uncertainty right now about what trans students’ rights are at school. The most important thing to remember is that no matter what happens in the new administration or with the Supreme Court, **many schools will still be willing to support trans students**. In many places, there are state laws or other protections in place to rely on, even if the federal protections are eroded. **These links will help you access key documents below:**

1. ***Dear DOJ- Letters in Support of Transgender Youth--*** The letter is pre-addressed/linked, you just fill in your information;

<http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51171/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=20850>

1. ***Call the DOE and DOJ-*** Dial202-401-3000 or 5900 and tell Betsy DeVos to keep crucial Title IX protections in place! See script at end of document.
2. ***Transgender National Center for Equality****-* A comprehensive website that provides an overview of current concerns under the Trump administration, tips for strategizing, an overview of current protections, links to key federal and state documents, guidelines for Title IX Coordinators, key court cases, and a list of all organizations and key figures who stand with transgender students;

<http://www.transequality.org/school-action-center>

1. ***Department of Education’s Guidance Fact Sheet from the US Department of Education Policy Letter on Behalf of Transgender Students*-** A documentproviding an overview of current facts and rights, and exemptions from the law;

<http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/ED-DCL-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

1. ***A Dear Colleague Letter****-* A letter to give out to your peers which explains changes and rights for Transgender Students under Title IX which were implemented during Obama's presidency;

<http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/sac/01%20colleague-201605-title-ix-transgender.pdf>

1. ***Know Your Rights* | *Schools****-* A document outlining rights of transgender students in schools, how to file a complaint, and who to go to for support;

<http://www.transequality.org/know-your-rights/schools>

1. ***Examples of Supportive Policies from the Department of Education****-* These examples show

different approaches schools across the country have taken across a range of issues;

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oshs/emergingpractices.pdf>

1. ***Federal Guidance on Bullying and Harassment****-* Guidance on bullying, including gender-based and anti-transgender bullying;

[http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/sac/06 colleague-201010.pdf](http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/sac/06%20colleague-201010.pdf)

1. ***Model District Policy*** -These detailed policies are from NCTE and GLSEN and includes policies that school districts can adopt to support trans students;

[http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/GLSEN Trans Model Policy 2016.pdf](http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/GLSEN%20Trans%20Model%20Policy%202016.pdf)

1. ***Schools in Transition***- This is a practical 6-chapter guide to help school officials address issues affecting trans students. It covers ***gender basics, why this work matters, key considerations*** (e.g., planning, timing, age and grade level, privacy and disclosure, and public and private transitions); ***key elements and practical tips*** (e.g. student records and information systems, names and pronouns, dress code, sex-separated facilities, activities and programs, discrimination, harassment and bullying) ***complex issues, legal landscape, creating an affirming school for all,*** and has a rich resource guide filled with appendices and practical applications of the chapters;

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/staging/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Schools-in-Transition-2015.pdf>;

1. ***FAQ on Bathrooms-*** A document that addresses common questions school officials may have about restroom access; and,

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/BathroomFAQ/>

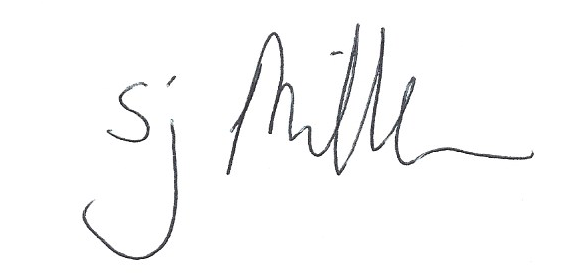
1. ***Donate Money to the Trans Lifeline-*** Donate money to the non-profit phone-support hotline on behalf of transgender people.

https://www.translifeline.org/donate

***Please consider passing this along to colleagues, list serves, friends and family, and if you are teaching, ask your peers and students to write letters in support of transgender youth.***

On behalf of the youth you are about to help, we all thank you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Please, please, pass on.

In solidarity,



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***Sample script: You can use this script but feel free to add details about your own experience, or your family’s.***

* Hi, my name is [your name] and I am from [State].
* I am calling because I care about Title IX’s protection of students’ rights to go to school in a safe environment, free from discrimination and violence.
* Please tell Secretary DeVos that I want the Department to keep in place Title IX guidance on protecting transgender students from discrimination and preventing and addressing sexual harassment and assault. I also want the Department to continue its strong enforcement of Title IX and to keep publishing the list of schools under investigation for Title IX violations.
* [If you have any additional comments, you can add them here].
* Spread the word. See if you can get 5 of your friends to call in as well.