March 2, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to urge you to reconsider your decision to rescind important Title IX guidance detailing schools’ obligation to protect transgender students from discrimination. The guidance set forth by both the Departments of Education and Justice in May 2016 has helped educational institutions answer common, practical questions concerning this population of students while maintaining compliance with the law. Further, we ask you and members of your administration to meet with transgender students and their families who have relied on this guidance for a safe learning environment and hear their stories about what it means to be transgender in school.

Hundreds of thousands of transgender students live and attend school in every part of our country. A recent report by the Williams Institute estimated there are over 350,000 transgender teens and young adults between ages 13 and 24 in America. Studies show that transgender students are healthy and successful when they receive support and fair treatment, but too many of these students face discrimination. The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey found that more than three-quarters (77%) of respondents who identified or were perceived as transgender in K–12 school had one or more negative experiences, such as being verbally harassed, prohibited from dressing according to their gender identity, or physically or sexually assaulted. Singling out transgender students by excluding them from school facilities and forcing them to use separate facilities is a real and harmful form of discrimination that causes humiliation and puts students at risk for bullying and health problems.

The federal guidance issued in May 2016 pertaining to transgender students reflects over a decade of case law and proven best practices from schools around the country. The Departments issued this guidance at the request of educators across the country seeking clarification about how to best comply with existing laws. National leaders in education - including the leading associations of teachers, principals, pediatricians, and school counselors and psychologists - supported this clarification.

Title IX provides transgender students the right to equal treatment in accordance with their gender identity. Unfortunately, rescinding this guidance only serves to confuse school administrators and take away a vital tool for students and their families who want to be treated with dignity and respect. Further, this action sends the wrong message - a very dangerous message - to transgender youth and their peers.
For these reasons, we urge you to reverse your decision and reinstate the Title IX guidance. Furthermore, we urge you, the U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to meet with transgender students and their families to hear firsthand about their school experiences. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Alma Adams  
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress

Nanette Barragan  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Ruben J. Kihuen  
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress
Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

David Price
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Linda Sánchez  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress
Cc: The Honorable Jeff Session, Attorney General of the United States
    The Honorable Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress