

Urgent Action Alert!

Support Survivors: Share Your Feedback with the Department of Education Today

Yesterday, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced the Department's intent to create a **new Title IX rule process**. She criticized the Dear Colleague letter (the letter providing guidance to K-12 schools and universities on how to handle sexual assault investigations) which is **a clear move backward** by the Department on policy and demonstrates a failure to stand up for victims. The following links include a [video](#) of the press conference where she made these announcements (DeVos begins speaking at minute 23:47) and [highlights from transcripts](#) of her speech.

While this is disappointing news, it is important to remember that **schools remain responsible for responding to and preventing sexual violence**. Title IX is still in full force as well as the Campus Save Act requirements and we at CCASA are working with national partners to continue to advocate for the full enforcement of the Dear Colleague letter. The Department of Education is accepting [comments from the public](#) on the current Title IX clarifying guidance for sexual violence investigations. If we are to preserve Title IX protections for student survivors, **we need to act now**. We have **12 days** before public comment closes on September 20th to rally behind survivors and to tell the administration why Title IX protections are crucial to survivor, student, and campus safety.

Message:

Join us in the national effort to #StopBetsy: click [this link](#) to submit a comment to the Department of Education. Here are **example talking points** that you may want to include:

- Responses to campus sexual assault must support survivors, uphold current available protections, and improve prevention.
- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college. Yet, fewer than 10% of sexual assault victims on college campuses report the assault. Any changes in current protections that would make it more difficult for survivors to report or to be believed will have **a chilling impact on already low reporting rates**.

- The Department of Education's Title IX sexual assault guidance and the Clery Act with Campus SaVE amendments are critically important tools for addressing campus sexual harassment and assault.
- Title IX and the Clery Act are **effective tools to support survivors, increase institutional transparency, hold individual offenders accountable and improve community safety**.
- All institutions of higher education need to maintain campus processes with standards befitting a non-criminal, internal proceeding to respond to sexual misconduct.
- Campus disciplinary proceedings should use a standard of evidence **no higher than preponderance of the evidence**.

Thank you for supporting survivors.

In Solidarity,
CCASA Staff

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