



ATLANTA WOMEN FOR EQUALITY

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The Honorable Betsy DeVos
The U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20202

July 25, 2017

Delivered via email to: Candice.Jackson@ed.gov; Chelsea.Henderson@ed.gov

Dear Secretary DeVos and Acting Assistant Secretary Jackson:

We write to request a meeting with you on behalf of Atlanta Women for Equality and other victim-survivor advocacy groups in Georgia.

Atlanta Women for Equality is a pro bono legal aid nonprofit dedicated to providing legal advocacy for women and girls facing sex discrimination, protecting and expanding economic and educational opportunities for women and girls, and helping shape our workplaces and schools according to true standards of equal treatment. Through our Campus Advocacy Program, Atlanta Women for Equality has helped women who have survived sexual assault on Georgia's university campuses and spoken with many more students about the different reporting, investigation, and disciplinary processes in Georgia. We hope to share their experiences with you and convey the direct impact that the Department of Education's policies have had on Georgia students' educations.

While we understand that you have met with a few survivors already, we believe that a single 90-minute session is not sufficient to understand the full scope and impact of this issue, and that far more engagement is necessary to write thoughtful, evidence-based policy. We were particularly disturbed to see Acting Assistant Secretary Jackson's endorsement of age-old rape myths in *The New York Times* and are concerned that the Department's policymaking is informed by bias and misinformation, rather than the lived experiences of student survivors. We would like to share some survivors' stories with you as well as our practical experience with Title IX as attorneys to clarify misconceptions surrounding Title IX and how disciplinary proceedings work on college campuses.

Please let us know if and when you are available to meet.

Sincerely yours,

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