

**From:** Pastor Decker  
**Sent:** Tue, 8 Jun 2021 17:40:04 -0500  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing

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Dear Secretary Cardona and Ms. Goldberg,

I am pleased to submit this public comment on behalf of our Church and Christian School ministries, regarding the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights "Announcement of Public Hearing; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972."

Like other faith-based institutions that serve families, the mission of our Church and School leads us to provide families with high-quality educational services that include strong academics and Christian teachings that inculcate the values and tenets of our faith into our students' lives. We believe that Christian schools are uniquely equipped to serve those in need and must be allowed to maintain their religious identity and practice as they teach students. As such, the religious freedom guaranteed under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is vital to our religious mission of providing a holistic education for our students.

With dependence on our natural rights and the protections of the First Amendment, we argue that President Biden's executive orders on "Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation" (EO 13988) and "Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity" (EO 14021) are a threat to the ability of religious institutions and families to practice faith without government interference.

If the Department of Education's proposal to eliminate "discrimination" on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation is applied to all institutions without consideration for religious belief, the ability of schools to operate according to biblical beliefs will be violated.

Ultimately, this attempt to restructure the very core of our way of life is based solely on one side's opinion, while violating the right of others to have an alternate view. In addition, this attempt to alter societies view on "sex" is totally without viable merit, and has NO scientific foundation. **If we "Follow the Science", as President Biden is known to constantly say, then this change to our legislation would be thrown out immediately!! It is sad to say, but even actual science appears to now be merely relative to the agenda of the moment.**

As a Christian educational institution, we believe that each individual is uniquely created in the image of God. Therefore, our school strives to show Christ's love to all students by providing them an excellent education that teaches them how to reach their God-given potential, by living a productive and fulfilling life fully embracing their design and serving their community and their calling in Christ. In order to continue the mission to advance Christian education with excellence, it is imperative that our school remain free to offer services and help the community without government interference in the most basic understandings of belief. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this essential matter. In summary, we ask that the Department of Education uphold the religious freedom of schools and the conscience rights of all Americans.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Bobby Decker  
Bethel Baptist Church & School  
Hartselle, AL