

**From:** Clayton Hunt  
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June 8, 2021

Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona  
Ms. Suzanne Goldberg  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Submitted to: T9PublicHearing@ed.gov

RE: Notice for Public Hearing; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Invitation for Written Comments

Federal Registry No: 2021-10629

Dear Secretary Cardona and Ms. Goldberg:

As an educator who has spent 46 years teaching and administrating in Christian Schools, I have a concern 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.

First, this proposal imposes a threat to the ability of religious institutions and families to practice faith without government interference. The Constitution asserts that the freedom of religion guarantees us the ability to live according to the dictates of one's conscience informed by reason and revelation from God. Our government has always protected this foundational right and has seen it as the guiding principle from which all other rights flow.

Schools that do not comply with the Department's standards for sex discrimination will be forced either to deny their religiously held beliefs or lose the ability to accept students in need of available government loans and grants. The Department's actions create a dichotomy that violates the Supreme Court rulings and the guarantees of the Constitution. (American Association of Christian Schools)

The consequence of denying students and families their First Amendment rights may be a reduction in access for the neediest students. Christian schools and universities may be forced to close their doors as a result of the Administration's orders. Religious institutions that hold a traditional and religious view of human sexuality in contradiction to the Department of Education's definition of sex will be stripped of the freedom to practice biblical beliefs and teach the biblical truths about the creation of man, God's design for sexuality, and the purpose of marriage. Further, parents and students who voluntarily partner with Christian schools will lose their religious liberty to associate with fellow believers to accomplish a shared mission. Schools may also be required to hire staff and faculty who fundamentally oppose the

schools' beliefs and values. All that the Administration's efforts will achieve is to harm hundreds of thousands of Christian school students, parents, teachers, and administrators who take seriously God's commands to raise up children in biblical truth.(American Association of Christian Schools)

This proposal would also create additional problems for children and families. For example, biological boys and men who identify as women have competed in some girls' sports, stripping women and girls from championship titles and scholarship opportunities which they had worked for years to attain. While Title IX gives women the equal opportunity to participate in sports, these executive orders would remove this protection by giving biological men access to competitions and teams designed for biological women. This unfair advantage gives men identifying as women a distinct physical advantage in competitions.

Another concern would be the compromise of previously designated areas for boys and girls. Opening those areas to the opposite sex would in turn cause questions of safety and privacy. Likewise, I am concerned about the confusion this redefinition would prompt for teens who already struggle with the issues of confidence and self- identity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this essential matter. In summary, I ask that the Department of Education uphold the religious freedom of schools and the conscience rights of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Clayton Hunt

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