

**From:** Daniel Ritchie  
**Sent:** Thu, 10 Jun 2021 10:31:20 -0500  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing on Education Amendments of 1972

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My name is Daniel Ritchie, and I have been a tenured professor of English for 30 years. I am writing to urge you to retain the due process requirements of the new Title IX Rule, as established under Secretary De Vos. I am especially concerned that any revisions reflect the balance that our judicial system seeks for the rights of both alleged victims and defendants: no double jeopardy, the right to confront one's accusers, a uniform standard of evidence, and open hearings.

I teach English literature of the 17th century, when an authoritarian judicial process was in part responsible for social polarization, which ultimately devolved into civil war. In my experience, our college and university campuses are more polarized than the rest of society, largely because those of us who shape its atmosphere have allowed narrow, ideological approaches to justice to fashion too much of our curricular and extra-curricular life. The regulations established as a result of the earlier "Dear Colleague" letter, issued under President Obama's administration, made this polarization worse. Further, they exposed our institutions to lawsuits that demonstrated the injustice of those regulations.

The new Title IX Rule doesn't solve the problems of sexual harassment or assault. Those problems must be addressed at every level, and adequate sanctions must accompany their violation. But they do establish an arena where the accused and the defendant may plead their case in a fair setting.

Please retain them.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ritchie

Professor of English

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