For many years as a retired law enforcement professional and as a school safety consultant, I worked
with schools toward improving school responses to sexual assault allegations, gave advice on how to
investigate those allegations and more importantly, how to identify victims and potential perpetrators
of sexual assault against children. I was regularly surprised at the naivete of education administrators
when identifying the “grooming” process utilized by education employees and others when preparing
children for an illegal sexual encounter. Further, most school ignore completely any training, policy,
procedures or directives supporting the reporting, recording, investigation and overall handling of sexual
assault complaints, not only of student on student events but teacher on student attacks. The State of
Oklahoma has an embarrassing record of allowing employees suspected of sexually abusing children to
continue to maintain employment in the education profession, of “passing the trash” from one district
to another and for failing miserably in taking seriously the complaints of victims against their abuser.

It was therefore not surprising but extremely disappointing to me as both a law enforcement officer,
school safety advocate and parent to find former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos reducing the reach
of Title IX and making comments that clearly suggested she was out of touch with what was and still is
going on every day in schools across this nation. Her approach demonstrated a total lack of
understanding for the depth, breadth and seriousness of the overall problem. It is huge and continues
to be so.

Enhancing, not diminishing, Title IX, should include but not be limited to:

- Mandatory revocation of any education or teaching certificate where proven allegations of
  sexual abuse of children occurs, even when criminal charges are not approved.
- Revocation of administrative certificates for any administrator failing in their obligation to
  report to law enforcement allegations of sexual abuse of children.
- Encouraging and offering support to school districts in law suits against other districts who fail
to disclose allegations of sexual abuse of children.
- Mandating policies for handling allegations of sexual abuse, sexual bulling, bulling of LBGTQ
  students, intimidation of victims, and policies on annual training that includes identification of
  behavior(s) deemed to be consistent with the grooming methods utilized by sexual predators
  who prey on children.
- Written guidelines and enforced discipline against students who intimidate, bully, harass or
  otherwise infringe on the rights of LBGTQ students, and students who are victims of sexual
  assault by other students or education professionals. Mitigation techniques and mediation of
  these attacks by forcing an agreement or apology between the abuser and the victim are not
  approved methods of address. Such a response should be made unavailable.
• Title IX training should be made mandatory at all levels of the education process, including K-12

I am available to discuss my email, the trainings I offered for years and the impact such training has had within education. I hope the individuals responsible for enhancing protections for students, faculty and staff are as committed to the safety of these individuals as they are hoped to be by the children and parents who place their trust in them.