

**From:** John Essington  
**Sent:** Wed, 9 Jun 2021 10:16:15 -0500  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing (Due Process)

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Good morning,

My name is John Essington and I am a professor of education at Blackburn College in Carlinville, IL. Not only do I work at a college, but I also have two young daughters and a son. The proposed rollback of due process protections for college students is an act against the very nature of America. We are a country that does not assume guilt and allows those accused to a right to defend themselves in a public hearing while be allowed a chance to view the evidence, gain legal counsel, and cross-exam their accuser.

Furthermore, this entire concept of a school providing these hearings is entirely illegitimate. If I was ever asked to take part in a college hearing to determine if a student sexually assaulted another student, I would adamantly refuse. I am a professor of education and the people running these hearings are not legal judges. Any of these cases are without question serious enough to be taking to local police and prosecutors without the need for fake college courts.

I have two daughters who I want fiercely protected but I also have a young son that I demand is equally protected. College administrators and faculty are not supposed to run legal hearings on matters of such import. Additionally, the idea that the accused is to be held as guilty before the hearing, not allowed to view evidence, or have legal counsel is an abomination of American rights. These are more akin to the show trials in fascist countries than American exercises of legality.

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