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Sent: Tue, 8 Jun 2021 21:40:04 -0500
To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing (gender identity provisions)

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Anyone who's paying attention knows that almost every major Western institution is currently dominated by a particular strain of progressivism that includes, among other things, gender identity ideology. Despite this dominance, there is nevertheless robust and ongoing debate about many of the issues in question, including gender ideology. I realize the government is currently largely in favor of this particular brand of politics, but it's my hope that the government will recognize that there's legitimate debate about some of these issues and be willing to consider differing views.

I also want to point out that the debate over gender ideology is not a liberal vs conservative debate. In fact, much of the criticism of gender ideology is coming from the political left (I myself am a progressive), especially from feminists and others who see the negative impact gender ideology can have on women, children, and even members of the LGBT+ community itself.

The gender ideology debate is complex, but here I'll just comment on the executive order in question, in particular the inclusion of gender identity in the order's list of protected characteristics.

On the one hand, this seems unobjectionable - obviously we don't want students being harassed or discriminated against in general. However, this is a rare case where the rights and concerns of different demographic groups have come into or can potentially come into conflict. In this case, the issue is primarily the presence of biological males in women's spaces, such as sports, bathrooms, locker rooms, etc. Much of the ongoing debate is about the extent of these conflicts and how they can best be resolved.

Like everyone, I have my own opinions about these issues, but rather than share them here, I'll simply ask this. I know what kind of politics currently dominates the government and especially the education department, but I strongly encourage anyone reading this to recognize that this is not a liberal vs conservative issue and that there are thoughtful and principled concerns about gender ideology to be found across the political spectrum. The way I read the executive order, it seems to me it could be interpreted and applied in a way that would basically mean the end of single-sex spaces for women and girls. Many people are concerned about this, and I hope you'll consider their views.

Thanks for your time.