

From: Rick Mattish
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Subject: Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing

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

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 principal of Calvary Christian School in Hollister, CA, I would like to express my opposition to President Biden's executive orders on "Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation" (EO 13988) and "Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity" (EO 14021).

These are a threat to the ability of religious institutions like my school and families to practice faith without government interference. The Constitution recognizes the fundamental nature of freedom of religion as 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.

If adopted by the Department of Education, I am concerned that the aforementioned executive orders would force our school to choose between our deeply held religious beliefs or compliance with the Department's standards for sex discrimination which would cause us to 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. [See *Trinity Lutheran v. Comer* (2017) and *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* (2019), in which the Court restates the fundamental principle that religious schools and students cannot be denied generally available funds simply because of religious status. The recent ruling in *A.H. v. French* also confirms this bedrock principle.]

Thank you for taking the time to hear my viewpoints and concerns!

Rick Mattish
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