

**From:** Toni Martindell  
**Sent:** Mon, 07 Jun 2021 20:12:24 +0000 (UTC)  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Please protect LGBTQ students!

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Hello,

My name is \*\*Toni Martindell\*\* and I'm from (b)(6). I'm writing in regard to the Department of Education's comprehensive review of Title IX protections and notice of proposed rulemaking.

Protections for LGBTQ students are essential to the safety and wellbeing of all students. LGBTQ students face harassment, unequal discipline for public displays of affection, being turned away from events like prom when they bring a same-sex date, and punishment for identifying as LGBTQ. LGBTQ students are significantly more likely than their straight peers to attempt suicide. Research from GLSEN shows that LGBTQ students who have at least one close connection at school are 40% less likely to commit suicide. Without protections, we are putting LGBTQ students at risk.

No transgender child should be denied access to a facility or program consistent with their gender identity, denied the opportunity to update their name or pronouns in school systems, or face unequal enforcement of dress and grooming codes — yet these instances of discrimination and others are common in schools nationwide.

Sincerely,  
Toni Martindell

(b)(6)