



NEBRASKA COALITION

TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

November 30, 2018

Statement by Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Community Engagement Coordinator Bailey Bond on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Title IX by the Department of Education.

On November 16, 2018, the Department of Education released proposed revisions to Title IX, reversing progress made in recent years to further the rights of all sexual violence survivors. In a time where movements such as #MeToo have brought survivor voices to the forefront of conversations surrounding sexual violence, these new regulations are a step back for those who have fought for inclusivity, social change, and understanding of trauma.

Among many problematic changes, the proposed regulations narrow the definition of sexual harassment and thus lessens the number of incidents to which an institution must respond. These guidelines also bolster the rights of the accused, through things such as permitted cross-examination of the survivor by the accused and increasing the standard of evidence required to assess accusations. These changes do not fit within a system that was created to provide an educational environment free from harm and not meant to adjudicate.

President Trump, Secretary DeVos, and the Department of Education are sending the clear message to survivors that the federal government will protect educational institutions but not those that attend them. As a result, we wish to support our state and local educational communities as they seek to find ways to protect survivors on their campuses during this time of change. This is not an easy task, but we are here to partner with any institution seeking to uphold safety for survivors and continue the movement to end sexual violence.

The Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence does not support the new proposed regulations. We stand with all survivors. We will continue to amplify the voices of the unheard and promote practices that will lead to safe campuses for all students. We will continue to fight for accountability and just practices. We will not stand by as sexual violence is yet again minimized on college campuses across our nation.

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