

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to urge you to reconsider your decision to rescind important Title IX guidance detailing schools' obligation to protect transgender students from discrimination. The guidance set forth by both the Departments of Education and Justice in May 2016 has helped educational institutions answer common, practical questions concerning this population of students while maintaining compliance with the law. Further, we ask you and members of your administration to meet with transgender students and their families who have relied on this guidance for a safe learning environment and hear their stories about what it means to be transgender in school.

Hundreds of thousands of transgender students live and attend school in every part of our country. A recent report by the Williams Institute estimated there are over 350,000 transgender teens and young adults between ages 13 and 24 in America. Studies show that transgender students are healthy and successful when they receive support and fair treatment, but too many of these students face discrimination. The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey found that more than three-quarters (77%) of respondents who identified or were perceived as transgender in K-12 school had one or more negative experiences, such as being verbally harassed, prohibited from dressing according to their gender identity, or physically or sexually assaulted. Singling out transgender students by excluding them from school facilities and forcing them to use separate facilities is a real and harmful form of discrimination that causes humiliation and puts students at risk for bullying and health problems.

The federal guidance issued in May 2016 pertaining to transgender students reflects over a decade of case law and proven best practices from schools around the country. The Departments issued this guidance at the request of educators across the country seeking clarification about how to best comply with existing laws. National leaders in education - including the leading associations of teachers, principals, pediatricians, and school counselors and psychologists - supported this clarification.

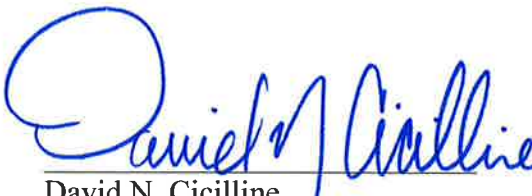
Title IX provides transgender students the right to equal treatment in accordance with their gender identity. Unfortunately, rescinding this guidance only serves to confuse school administrators and take away a vital tool for students and their families who want to be treated with dignity and respect. Further, this action sends the wrong message - a very dangerous message - to transgender youth and their peers.

For these reasons, we urge you to reverse your decision and reinstate the Title IX guidance. Furthermore, we urge you, the U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to meet with transgender students and their families to hear firsthand about their school experiences. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



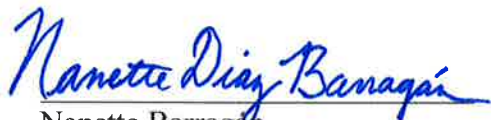
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Alma Adams
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Nanette Barragan
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



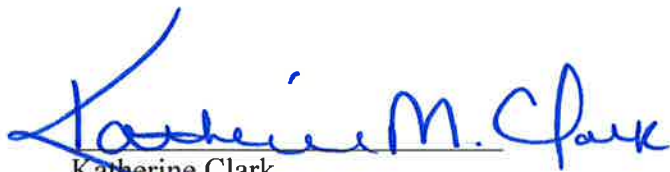
André Carson
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



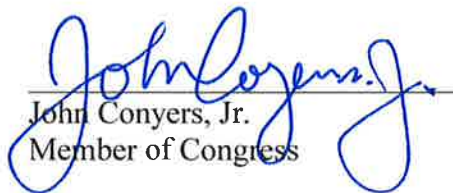
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



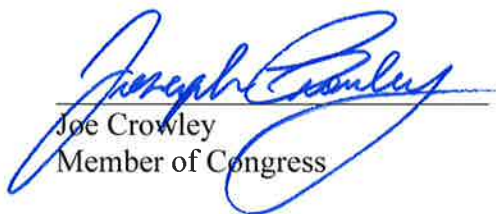
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



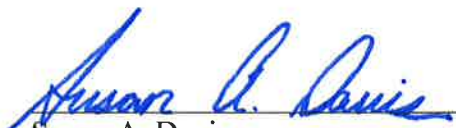
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
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Joe Crowley
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Susan A. Davis
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Danny K. Davis
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Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
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Anna G. Eshoo
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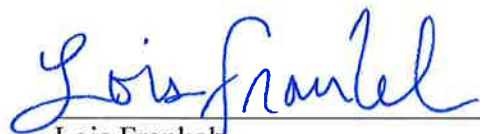
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
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Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



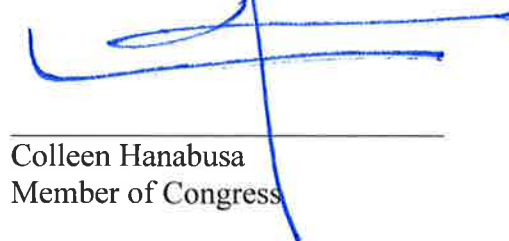
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress

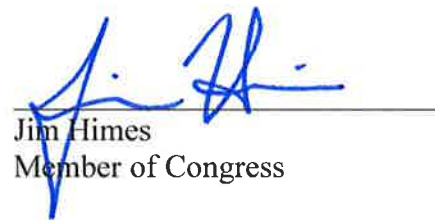

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

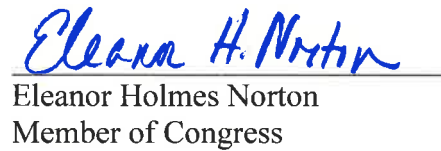

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress


Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Jim Himes
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Barbara Lee
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Sander Levin
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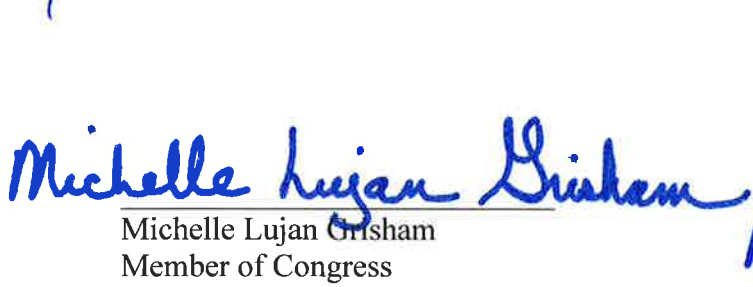
John Lewis
Member of Congress



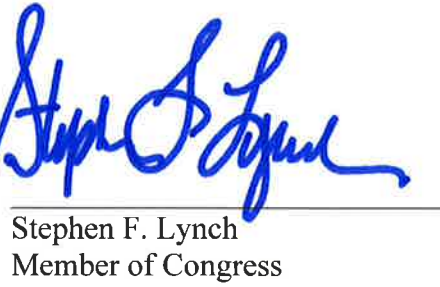
Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



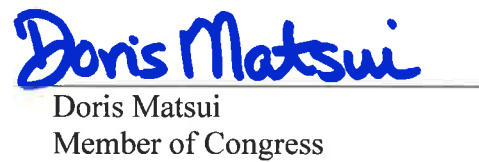
Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
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Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



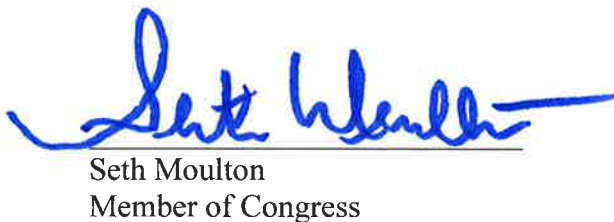
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



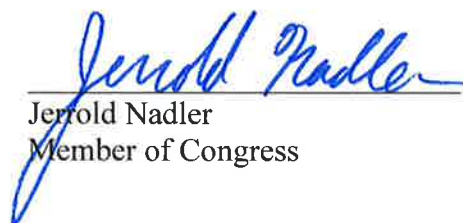
Grace Meng
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Gwen S. Moore
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



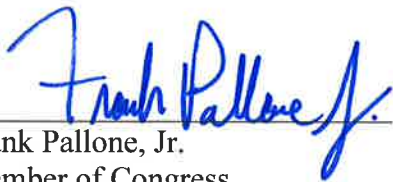
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



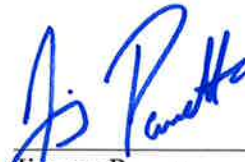
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



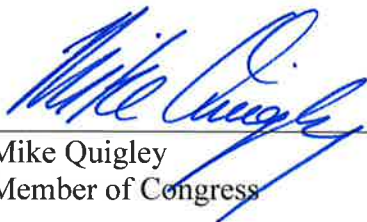
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



David Price
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Mike Quigley
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Jamie Raskin
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



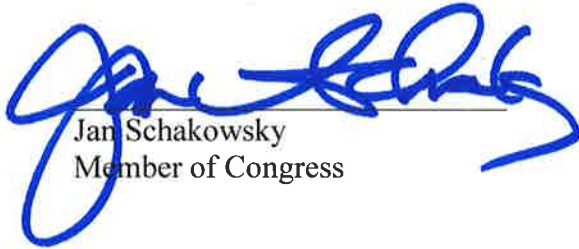
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



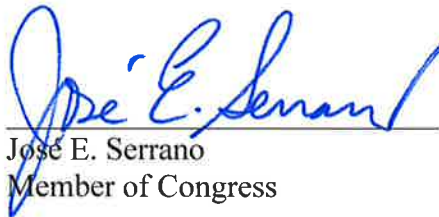
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



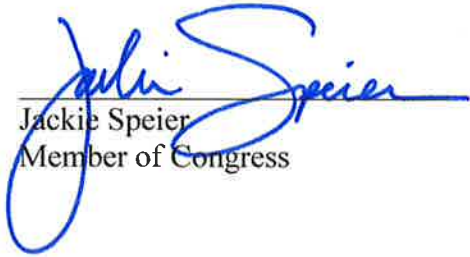
Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress




Dina Titus
Member of Congress



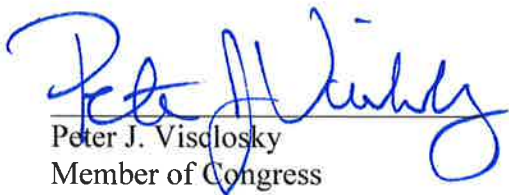
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



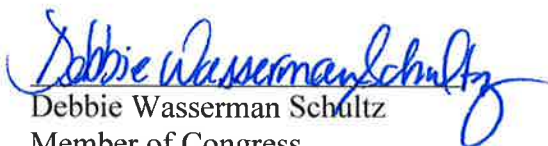
Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Peter Welch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

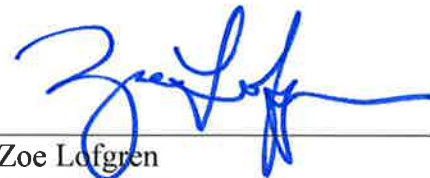
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Frederica S. Wilson". The signature is cursive and elegant.

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Yarmuth". The signature is cursive and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Zoe Lofgren". The signature is cursive and includes a large loop at the beginning.

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Jeff Session, Attorney General of the United States
The Honorable Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education