



OAESV Statement on Recent Department of Education Guidance on Title IX

September 27, 2017

On Friday September 22nd, the Department of Education announced that it had rescinded the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter and the 2014 Frequently Asked Questions guidance documents and issued new interim guidance.

This new guidance is a step backwards and has put years of progress at risk. Survivors and accused students alike need to trust that their schools will handle reports of sexual violence with impartiality. Should their school fail in this regard, they need to trust that their government will hold the education institution accountable. With this new guidance, that trust has been lost. The Department of Education's actions call strongly into question whether it prioritizes ending sexual violence, ensuring survivors have an equal right to attain an education, or making campuses a safer environment.

Here at OAESV we want survivors and advocates to know, that for us, nothing has changed. Title IX is still the Law. Schools still have a legal obligation to provide an equitable and safe learning environment. If the Department of Education reduces its enforcement efforts, we will work increasingly harder to fill the gap. We will not let universities backslide.

As always, we believe you, we support you, and we will never stop fighting for you.

About the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

As Ohio's statewide sexual assault coalition, OAESV advocates for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and empowers communities to prevent sexual violence. Committed to confronting oppression and ending sexual violence, OAESV's work is guided by a dedicated Board of Directors and carried out by a staff of ten accomplished professionals, with offices in Cleveland and Columbus.

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