

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

July 28, 2021

The Honorable Miguel Cardona  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

Thank you for your commitment to promoting gender equity in education. We appreciate your continued efforts to making sure all students have equal access to educational opportunities free from discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, race, national origin, and other characteristics protected by the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX).

Recently, the Biden-Harris administration has taken several important steps to promote gender equity in education—issuing executive orders to Prevent and Combat Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation ([EO 13988](#)), Establish the White House Gender Policy Council ([EO 14020](#)), and Guarantee an Educational Environment Free From Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity ([EO 14021](#)); clarifying Title IX regulations through guidance; conducting education stakeholder meetings to solicit feedback about how to strengthen Title IX regulations; and starting the formal process to strengthen those regulations. We acknowledge these efforts, but more can be done to build the national gender equity infrastructure and ensure states, school districts, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities have the resources they need to promote gender equity in education.

Earlier this year, on June 23, we reintroduced the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) for the 117th Congress. GEEA would establish an Office for Gender Equity (OGE) within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to provide financial and technical assistance for states, school districts, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities to strengthen the national gender infrastructure and promote gender equity in education.

Leading OGE would be a Special Assistant for Gender Equity, who would be responsible for supporting educational entities with fully implementing Title IX; providing Title IX coordinators with training, technical assistance, and support to fully carry out their roles and responsibilities;

providing grants to implement programs and activities that are focused on reducing and preventing sex discrimination in education; identifying and disseminating information and evidence-based best practices for reducing and preventing sex discrimination; maintaining a resource center website to disseminate information and evidence-based best practices for achieving gender equity; and performing other activities to promote gender equity—among other things. Separately, GEEA would also require coordination between the ED Secretary and the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and others to investigate, identify, and disseminate best practices to fully implement Title IX.

ED has the authority to establish a Special Assistant for Gender Equity under the Department of Education Organization Act (DEOA), and GEEA provides a detailed roadmap for how that Special Assistant can be an effective advocate for gender equity in education. Now more than ever, we must do what we can to promote gender equity. With these changes, we have an opportunity to advance gender equity in education through Title IX. We urge you to consider implementing provisions from the bill.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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MAZIE K. HIRONO  
United States Senator



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DORIS MATSUI  
Member of Congress