



July 17, 2017

Secretary Betsy DeVos
The U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue
Washington, DC 20202

Sent via email

Dear Secretary DeVos and Acting Assistant Secretary Jackson:

I write on behalf of Know Your IX to follow up on requests submitted by our office on July 5th and July 7th, 2017 to meet with you.

Know Your IX, a project of Advocates for Youth, and our student members on over 200 campuses across the country are at the forefront of the movement to ensure that all students have access to equal educational opportunities, regardless of their gender. As advocates—and as young people whose own access to education has been compromised by gender violence—I believe we have unique personal experiences and policy expertise to share with you.

While we understand that you have met with a few survivors already, we believe that a single 90-minute session is not sufficient to understand the full scope and impact of gender violence in schools; far more engagement is necessary to write thoughtful, evidence-based policy on this issue. We were particularly disturbed to see Acting Assistant Secretary Jackson's endorsement of age-old rape myths in *The New York Times* last week and are concerned that the Department's policy-making is being informed by misinformation and bias, rather than the lived experiences of student survivors. We hope we can help clarify some misconceptions for you.

Please let us know when you are available to meet.

Sincerely,

Mahroh Jahangiri
Program Manager, Know Your IX