



WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

WCASA Statement on Rollback of Title IX

Today, the Department of Education (DOE) released the final rule addressing how schools must respond to sexual violence under Title IX. WCASA is extremely disappointed in DOE's final Title IX rule as it will make our schools less safe and make it harder for survivors to report sexual violence. Title IX was enacted to ensure that sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, would never be the end of anyone's education. The rule issued today completely undermines the central aim of Title IX.

These new regulations will create additional barriers to survivors reporting sexual violence to schools. This will disproportionately impact survivors from historically marginalized communities, including students of color and LGBTQ students, who may be reluctant to engage with other systems, including medical and law enforcement. We fear the changes announced today will take us back to a time when sexual violence in schools was swept under the rug and perpetrators were not held accountable.

Finally, we are deeply disappointed that DOE chose to issue the final rule despite the over 100,000 comments submitted by WCASA and other experts expressing serious concern about the proposed reforms to Title IX. Furthermore, students should not have to worry about what protections will be in place regarding sexual violence at a time of increased stress and anxiety due to the COVID-19 pandemic. WCASA echoes the calls of other advocacy organizations for schools to prioritize safety and to continue working towards creating cultures where sexual violence is not tolerated.