

July 12, 2016

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

We are writing in regard to the House Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for FY 2017 and the guidance on Title IX recently issued by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice. The appropriations bill includes specific language (Sec. 313) to impede the implementation of the guidance and protections for transgender students under Title IX. We are strongly opposed to this provision, which would bar the Department of Education from using funds appropriated by the bill for implementing the guidance.

Research has found that transgender students face significant barriers to education and are at high risk for discrimination in the nation's schools. GLSEN recently found that over 50% of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students reported experiencing discrimination because of their gender identities, and transgender students were more likely to report that they might not complete high school. As transgender students have become more visible and discrimination against them has become more prevalent, school leaders across the nation have looked for direction on serving their transgender student populations.

The new guidance, released on Friday, May 13, 2016, provides that direction. The guidance makes clear to schools, school districts and states across the nation how to comply with Title IX when working with transgender students. It unequivocally states that schools must provide safe and inclusive environments, must treat students consistent with their gender identities, must not discriminate with regard to sex-segregated activities or facilities, and must ensure student privacy.

As the appropriations process moves forward, we urge you to ensure that *all* students are afforded an education free of discrimination. Please oppose Sec. 313 in the House Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for FY 2017 and any effort to block or delay implementation of the Departments of Education and Justice joint guidance on Title IX's applicability to transgender students.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union  
GLSEN  
Human Rights Campaign  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Education Association  
National Women's Law Center