



END RAPE  
ON CAMPUS



Presents

# Title IX Town Hall



# Welcome to the Title IX Town Hall!

## The purpose of our Town Hall is:

- To update students on the current status of the Title IX rule review being conducted by the Department of Education
- Explain opportunities for students to participate in the upcoming public hearings on Title IX taking place June 7th to June 11th,
- Hear from student survivors to inform a collective letter our organizations will be submitting on behalf of student survivors as part of the public hearing
- Share information on upcoming opportunities for student survivors who wish to be a part of the live public hearing to be trained in how to participate

# Agenda

- Overview of where we are and how did we got here
- Breakdown of current policy priorities
- Breakout rooms to discuss
- Room share-outs with full group
- Next Steps→ How to take action

# Boundaries Guidelines

- **Confidentiality:** “What's learned here, leaves here. What's said here, stays here.”
- **Make this a safe space for everyone**
  - To help us ensure this is a space in which everyone can fully engage, **we ask that folks not share details about instances of violence itself.**
  - If sharing details about an institution’s response are helpful for the conversation, please provide a content or trigger warning.
    - Example: “Content warning: institutional pushout: I feel like I need to share details about the way my school handled my case. Can everyone please give me a thumbs up if they are comfortable with me sharing?”
  - Please also never share someone else’s story without explicit permission from them

## Boundaries Guidelines Cont.

- **Approach each other with respect & empathy**
- **One diva, one mic**
- **Take space, make space**
- **Throw glitter, not shade**
- **Challenge by choice**
- **Assume best intentions**→ Call in, not out
- **Take breaks!** If at any point you need a break, please feel free to turn off your camera and/or step away from your computer
- **If at any point you would like to leave a breakout room, please don't hesitate to return to the main room which will be staffed with folks to offer you support**

# An Update on Title IX: Where are we now?

- **What is Title IX?**

- Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972: *“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”*
- This statute prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funding and has been interpreted to also cover sexual harassment and sexual violence by the Supreme Court.

- **The past and current Title IX landscape**

- After being strengthened under the Obama Administration, the Trump Administration rolled back many of the strengthened guidances and supportive mechanisms for survivors. Now, under the Biden Administration, reforming Title IX is a priority and the first Title IX Public Hearings are being held by the Department of Education from June 7th-June 11th.

# Our Current Policy Priorities:

- 1) Expanding Survivor Support
- 2) Improving School Responses
- 3) Limiting Retaliation Against Survivors
- 4) Improving the Reporting and Adjudication Process
- 5) Reversing DeVos' Reduction of School Liability



# 1) Expanding Survivor Support

Ensuring all survivors have access to accommodations and supportive measures free of charge, such as:

- **Academic:** increasing access to academic accommodations and requiring disability coordinators to work in tandem with Title IX coordinators
- **Financial:** Prohibiting schools from requiring survivors to pay to retake the same course if they had to leave because of violence.
- **Health:** Increasing access to mental health counseling, 24/hr crisis support, and free transportation to SANEs
- **Safety:** Requiring schools to provide safe alternative housing and transportation, strengthen no-contact directives and persona non grata letter
- **K-12:** Ensure K-12 students have access to resources even if they are not offered within the school.



## **2) Improving School Responses**

- **Improving the definition of harassment**
- **Requiring schools to respond to all violence that creates a hostile environment, not just violence that occurs within a school program or activity**
- **Implementing a reasonable timeline**
- **Reducing police involvement in campus cases**
- **Increasing resources and focus on stalking and intimate partner violence**
- **Increasing access to Title IX in K-12 schools**

### **3) Limiting Retaliation Against Survivors**

- **Prohibiting the use of NDAs by schools**
- **Reducing retaliatory or preemptive cross-filing**
- **Prohibiting schools from punishing survivors for the violence or ancillary behavior**
- **Requiring robust amnesty policies**
- **Increasing protections for survivors at religious institutions**

## 4) Improving the Reporting & Adjudication Process

To improve the reporting and adjudication process we are looking to change:

- Who can file a report
- Hearing requirements
- Timeline
- Informal resolution
- Appeals



## **5) Reversing DeVos' Reduction of School Liability**

**Removing loopholes that allow schools to shirk their responsibilities to students**

- **Actual Notice**
- **Deliberate Indifference**

**Breakout Rooms for Discussion!**

## Next Steps: What comes next?

- After tonight's discussion, we will be finalizing our letter that our organizations will be submitting to the Office of Civil Rights. If you are interested in signing the letter in the support, the letter will be available to sign during the week of June 7th. More to come soon!
- Registrations to give live public comment at the hearings are full, but you can still submit a written comment. We will be sending more information out on how to do that after tonight.
- This is part one of our three-part series! More details on how to register coming soon but, please join us next week:
  - June 1 at 6pm ET/3pm PT → Testimony + Title IX Advocacy Workshop
  - June 3 at 6pm ET/3pm PT → Workshopping Public Testimony
  - After the week of hearings (June 7th-11th), we'll be holding open space for community debrief and support
- Please take care of yourself both tonight and over the next few weeks of hearings. Our organizations are here to support you-- don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the hearings or need any support.