Proposed Title IX changes spark student concern; student governments speak up:

Minneapolis / Stanford - 76 Student Body Presidents across 32 states came together today to respond to the Department of Education’s recently proposed Title IX regulations. It is the opinion of the signed Student Body Presidents that the existing Title IX laws and guidance have effectively protected students from sexual assault and have provided survivors with resources to receive the help and care that they deserve.

With concern, student governments across the country closely examined these proposed changes and highlighted ten provisions in their joint comment to the Department of Education that will decrease institutional accountability and enable increased sexual violence on college campuses. This joint comment follows numerous student comment submissions over the 60 day comment period that ends today.

“Secretary DeVos’ proposal incentivizes institutions to cover-up campus sexual violence. We’ve heard story after story about the failures of universities to appropriately respond to reports of sexual violence. We desperately need more institutional accountability, not less. We call on Secretary DeVos to take student concerns seriously, and request that she meet with the students who have signed onto this comment to demonstrate her commitment to hearing student voices,” said Shanta Katipamula, Associated Students of Stanford University Executive President.

“Students are deeply disturbed by the national climate around sexual violence on college campuses. Even with the work of countless survivors, advocates, and student leaders, there are still many barriers to reporting, and stories of survivors continue to be invalidated. Instead of moving us forward, the proposed Title IX regulations drastically reduce institutional responsibility to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, thereby putting more students at risk. For this reason, we call upon Secretary DeVos to take our concerns seriously and meet with student leaders who are passionate about this issue,” said Simran Mishra, University of Minnesota Student Body President.

If you are interested in covering this piece, visit the data guide at https://actionnetwork.org/user_files/user_files/000/028/106/original/Mini_Data_Guide_(N_C).pdf for more information.”

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