

Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Title IX Changes Regarding Student Sexual Assault and Harassment Cases

Whereas, The CSSA is the official voice of over 487,000 students in the California State University (CSU), and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Education has proposed changes to Title IX for the purpose of “improving schools’ responses to sexual harassment and assault”; and

Whereas, the changes to the statute effectively propose to achieve the opposite by narrowing the scope of jurisdiction for universities accepting federal monies; and

Whereas, students involved in incidents of sexual assault and/or harassment, regardless of whether such incidents occur on or off the campus property, should be able to trust their universities as essential agents in the investigation process; and

Whereas, students may be discouraged to bring forth cases involving sexual assault and/or harassment, as these cases are notorious for being difficult to prove in court to begin with and restricting access to support, in this case university resources, adds an additional barrier for survivors; and

Whereas, additional changes to Title IX procedures include requiring survivors be present for cross-examination, therefore being subject to confrontation with the defendant in a potentially re-traumatizing event; and

Whereas, the CSSA recognizes that students do not always identify with the gender that was assigned to them at birth; and be it

Resolved, that CSSA calls upon the U.S. Department of Education to maintain existing language that allows universities to fully investigate incidents involving currently enrolled students; and be it further

Resolved, that CSSA calls for an alternative method to be used in the place of a cross-examination procedure that can detrimentally affect the mental wellness and overall well-being of student survivors of sexual assault; and be it further

Resolved; that any changes to Title IX should not require a student to confirm their gender identity through a birth certificate; and be it further

Resolved, that CSSA calls upon its congressional representatives to advocate against any changes to Title IX as it relates to student sexual assault and harassment incidents; and be it finally

Resolved, this resolution shall be distributed to U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, Governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. Senator, Diane Feinstein, U.S. Senator, Kamala Harris, CSU Chancellor, Timothy P. White, and Stephanie Wright, CSU Senior Director for Human Resources Compliance & Employment.