



DONNA CAMPBELL, M.D.
TEXAS STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 25

May 20, 2016

Dear Superintendent,

On May 13, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education sent public schools a seven-page letter recommending policy changes that in essence would ban same-sex bathrooms and locker rooms on public school campuses. I am writing to inform you that their recommendations are non-binding and violate your local authority as independent school districts.

Among the most alarming recommendations in the letter is the assertion that *"A school may not require transgender students to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required to do so."* (from page 3)

This interpretation of Title IX by the Obama Administration has no historical precedent, and Title IX has never been applied in such a radical manner. In fact, to apply Title IX in such a new and arbitrary manner turns the intent of Title IX on its head and damages the strength of civil rights laws designed to protect students based on their actual race and gender.

Additionally, the letter's guidelines violate Chapter 4.001 of the Texas Education Code, which states as one of ten objectives that *"school campuses must maintain a safe and disciplined environment."* Changing existing bathroom and locker room policies to force female students to share facilities and showers with male students certainly puts such a safe and disciplined environment at risk.

As an elected official who represents residents in your district, I wanted to make you aware of the outcry I am hearing from parents concerned about their child's privacy and personal safety at school. Please keep parents, students, and lawmakers apprised of any changes your district considers regarding these policies.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Senator Donna Campbell, M.D.
Chair, Senate Veteran Affairs and Military Installations