



September 12, 2022

Hon. Miguel Cardona
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona,

Thank you for accepting my comments on the rulemaking process regarding the expanded definition of sex in Title IX. A transparent rulemaking process is very important to the people of Montana and to our democratic process. Please see the attached letter opposing the Department of Education's proposed rulemaking from Montana's Attorney General Austin Knudsen. I would like to affirm my support for the conclusions of the Montana Attorney General.

Montana does not discriminate. Montana respects local control in our schools. The proposed rule is another top-down Federal mandate that will force Montana's 826 public schools to focus on regulating this new definition of harassment instead of allowing them to focus on student success. Montana's nearly 150,000 students deserve better.

This Federal mandate goes against Montana's independent spirit and squashes the freedom of speech and expression that are so important to student learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elsie Arntzen".

Elsie Arntzen
Montana's State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Attachment: September 12, 2022, letter regarding Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance from Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen et al.

