

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Miguel Cardona  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona,

As you know, Title IX provides students crucial protections from discrimination on the basis of sex and it is vital that we ensure educational institutions enforce Title IX protections. These protections extend to cases of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other instances of sexual violence.

This letter is being sent with deep concern regarding several sexual assault allegations being investigated at the Eastern Michigan University and the enforcement of these important Title IX protections. A lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Michigan against the university alleges that the Eastern Michigan University actively covered up potential Title IX violations, told victims to not report crimes to the police, and has engaged in retaliatory efforts such as blocking transcripts from accusers. Eastern Michigan University and others named in the suit have denied the accusations.

While the Eastern Michigan University has launched an ongoing audit of its Title IX duties, I have significant concerns regarding the accusations and recent reporting surrounding this incident, including the graphic detail of the conduct of those accused, and alleged behavior of the university police department, Greek-letter organizations, and administration to instances of sexual assault.

As a result of these reports, I would like to request the following information:

1. Is the Department of Education aware of these allegations and is the Department engaging with the university or investigating the claims made in this lawsuit?
2. What oversight procedures does the Department of Education and Office of Civil Rights take to hold university officials accountable for potential Title IX violations?
3. Does the Department of Education provide best practices for federally funded schools on compliance to Title IX and reporting practices to the Department or the police?
4. What case information must schools disclose under Title IX and the Jeanne Clery Act, and how is this information reviewed to ensure schools are fully compliant in reporting criminal behavior?
5. For cases where victims do not seek a formal Title IX investigation or pursue criminal charges, what alternative methods of recourse must schools offer?

6. What additional resources does the Department of Education offer to schools to support prevention services, training, support services for victims, and reporting to stop sexual misconduct at schools?

Title IX protections play a crucial role in providing a safe, equitable learning environment for students, and institutions of higher education must take significant steps to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual violence. It is the Department of Education's duty to engage in stringent oversight to ensure education institutions meet this responsibility.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response and continuing to work with you on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress