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January 22, 2019

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Kenneth Marcus  
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Re: **Request for 60-day extension** of the public comment deadline (until 3/29/19);  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (RIN 1870-AA14)

Dear Secretary DeVos and Assistant Secretary Marcus:

We write to you on behalf of six of our seven independent private educational institutions (Claremont Graduate University, Claremont McKenna College, Keck Graduate Institute, Pitzer College, Pomona College, and Scripps College), which together, along with Harvey Mudd College, comprise The Claremont Colleges. As the Title IX Coordinators for our respective institutions, we strongly urge you to extend the comment period for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") (entitled *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance* (RIN 1870-AA14)), for an additional period of **60 days** beyond the original public comment deadline of January 28, 2019.<sup>1</sup>

The proposed regulatory changes are extensive and potentially far-reaching. They would require significant changes to our current policies, particularly as they define sexual harassment and sexual assault. They also raise many questions, such as how we will equitably administer cross-campus complaints in light of the proposed prohibition on utilizing sexual harassment procedures if the alleged conduct occurs outside of a single institution's educational program or activity.

Given the magnitude of the potential impact of the changes outlined in the proposed regulations, we need adequate time to prepare meaningful analysis and input. School administrators, faculty, and especially students deserve to have input in this important process. Unfortunately, the proposed regulations were released during one of the busiest periods in our academic year – just before Thanksgiving break, which was followed shortly by term paper deadlines, final exams, grade submission deadlines, the closing of our institutions for winter

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<sup>1</sup> We recognize that the Department of Education announced a 2-day extension until January 30, 2019, because its online comment portal could not accept public comments for two days last week. This does not alter our request, and Friday, March 29, 2019, would be a reasonable extension and deadline rather than falling instead over a weekend or Monday, April 1.

break, and our students' departure from our campuses for an extended period until the spring semester resumes today, January 22, 2018. Our students now have just six (6) days from the start of the new semester before the public comment period closes.

Additionally, most of our Board of Directors/Trustees do not meet between November and January, yet many of our institutions would seek their input – and, in at least some instances, approval – before submission of public comments on this important topic. In this regard, the timing of the proposed regulations' release also poses particular challenges for some of our campuses.

We would very much value the opportunity to provide meaningful public comment, as well as to ensure that our campus constituents also have a meaningful opportunity to provide critical feedback on their own behalves. The current timeframe is simply too short for most of us to effectively prepare and submit input on behalf of our individual institutions, much less collectively as we would strive to do on at least on some of the issues raised in the draft regulations if we had a longer timeframe.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to extend the deadline for an additional 60 days after the original January 28, 2019 deadline – until March 29, 2019. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Corinne M. Vorenkamp

cc: Quamina Carter  
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