

June 9, 2014

The Honorable Senator Claire McCaskill
Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Richard Blumenthal
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Jon Tester
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McCaskill, Blumenthal and Tester:

Thank you for including me in the most recent roundtable discussion on campus sexual assault, “The Role of Title IX.” I am grateful for your leadership on this important issue.

At the roundtable, I noted the importance of sensitivity in the release of the names of colleges and universities currently under investigation by the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR). As I believe I did not clearly articulate my point during the roundtable, I respectfully request the opportunity to have this clarifying letter added to the official record of the proceedings.

Student activists and victims’ rights advocates, including Know Your IX, have long called for clarity and transparency with respect to the OCR’s Title IX investigations. Such openness not only allows previous, current and prospective students to hold schools accountable for their (mis)treatment of survivors, but also permits the public to hold the Department of Education accountable for investigations that often remain open for years without resolution. I wholeheartedly commend the OCR for publishing this list, and am grateful that it did so with an eye to protecting victim complainants’ privacy and confidentiality. It is absolutely vital that the OCR continue to release—on an ongoing basis and with a similar attention to protecting victims’ confidentiality—the names of colleges and universities under investigation for Title IX violations.

Thank you again for including me in the roundtable, and I look forward to continuing conversation on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kelly
Special Projects Organizer, Know Your IX