

Federal Level Sample Letter Title IX - Senate

<This is a sample letter template you can use to contact your **Senators** to urge them to support students and institutions in considering Title IX language as part of HEA reauthorization. To use this letter, you should **copy and paste the text below into a new document** and **replace the highlighted text with information specific to you.**

- In the second paragraph, you should personalize your letter by providing an example or two of how students you work with benefit from federal investments in higher education.
- You do NOT need to name specific students or indicate the institution you work at.

You may also make other changes to the text in the template, to add or remove specific information and tailor your letter to focus on the issues most important to you.>

March 12, 2019

Dear Senator <Lastname>:

As your constituent living in <Your City>, I am writing today to ask you to support college students in <Your State> and across the country.

As a student affairs professional, I see first-hand how federal protections and regulations for campuses to respond to incidents of sexual harassment and assault affect students. Student affairs is a critical component of the higher education experience, collaborating with colleagues across institutions of higher education to offer students valuable learning opportunities, meaningful social engagements, and safe and inclusive environments. <Insert personal statement or story>

Essential to ensuring effective and supportive learning environments are campus adjudication procedures that uphold student civil rights while allowing for sensitivity to the level of ambiguity inherent in sexual harassment and assault incidents. Fair and balanced implementation of Title IX, a provision in the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibiting sex discrimination in schools supported by federal dollars, is essential for student success. The role of the federal government should be to establish a minimum standard to which states and institutions will be held accountable by the Department of Education (ED), but upon which states and institutions may build additional protections as appropriate for our communities. On behalf of our students, I urge you to work with your Congressional colleagues on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee to draft and support legislative language in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) that will uphold student civil rights and ensure appropriate oversight for fair and equitable adjudication of campus sexual harassment incidents that supports the educational purpose of our colleges and universities.

The future of our nation's knowledge economy relies on a college-educated workforce. I am relying on you to do what is right both for <Your State>'s students and our nation as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you about your plans to support our students and institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

<Your Name>

<Your Address, including Zip Code>