

July 26, 2017

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

We applaud your confirmation and service as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Your actions to date have shown your deep commitment to improve the quality of education and defend students' rights on campuses.

As you are well aware, the Department of Education is crying out for reform. During the Obama Administration, regulations and "guidance" letters that restrict freedom of speech and due process on college campuses were too often the norm. The Obama Department of Education overreached and under delivered.

We support your appointment of Candice Jackson to the Office of Civil Rights. Her recent statement that she and the Department were "committed to discontinuing the legally dubious practice of issuing subregulatory guidance that is then treated through enforcement as binding mandates" is exactly what is needed.

To further this commitment, we urge you to continue to support Candice Jackson's efforts and also to withdraw the "Dear Colleague" letter of April 2011 that has led to concerns about students' due process and freedom of speech in sexual harassment allegations and also threatened colleges and universities with loss of funding if the letter's requirements were not followed.

Americans came in time to realize how false the accusations were against the Duke University lacrosse team and members of Phi Kappa fraternity at the University of Virginia published by *Rolling Stone Magazine*. Nevertheless, there was a rush to judgment against the male students at both campuses. These case studies should have given government officials pause before lowering evidence requirements in sexual assault allegations. However, this was not the view or policy of the Obama Administration's Department of Education.

Candice Jackson rightly understands a more balanced approach that protects all parties is required.

While legislative remedies are also needed to forestall any future overreach in this area, you have the opportunity now to make additional strides in protecting due process and freedom of expression on America's campuses.

In closing, we the undersigned wish to thank you again for bringing a new approach to the U.S. Department of Education.

Sincerely,

Ron Robinson
President
Young America's Foundation

Grant Strobl
Chairman
Young Americans for Freedom

David N. Bossie
President
Citizens United

Colin A. Hanna
President
Let Freedom Ring

T. Kenneth Cribb
Former Chief Domestic Advisor to
President Ronald Reagan

Frank Donatelli
Assistant to President Reagan for
Political & Intergovernmental Affairs

Ron Pearson
Director
Conservative Victory Fund

John Fonte
Director of the Center for American
Common Culture, Hudson Institute

Jim Backlin
Vice President of Legislative Affairs
Christian Coalition of America

Susan Carleson
Chairman/CEO
American Civil Rights Union

David Ridenour
President
National Center for Public Policy
Research

Thomas P. Kilgannon
President
Freedom Alliance

Kate Obenshain
Chief Education Policy Advisor to
Governor George Allen
Former Member, State Council for
Higher Education in Virginia

Patrick Coyle
Vice President
Young America's Foundation
Executive Director
Young Americans for Freedom

William H. Shaker
CEO
Washington Marketing Group

Jolie Ballantyne, Esq.
Board of Governors
Young Americans for Freedom

Dee Hodges
President
Maryland Taxpayers Association

Paul Caprio
Director
Family PAC Federal

Benjamin M. Hooker
Chairman
Culver-Stockton College YAF

Morgan L. Lepre
Chairman
Temple University YAF

Gabrielle Fleming
Chairman
Dickinson College YAF

Matt Rhodes
Chairman
University of Denver YAF

Stephen V. Gianuzzi
Chairman
Stetson University YAF

Blaine Kelai
Chairman
Eastern Oregon University YAF

Nick Barefoot
Chairman
Westview High School YAF

Grace Ogden
Chairman
Ridley High School YAF

Luke McGahren
Chairman
Norcross High School YAF

Alexia Rodriquez
Chairman
West Allis Central YAF

Kenneth Pancake
Chairman
University of Nebraska at Omaha YAF

Lindsay Gatsios
Chairman
The University of Akron YAF

Benjamin Idzik
Chairman
Franciscan University YAF

Jorin Burkhart
Chairman
DePaul University YAF

Matt Colleran
Chairman
Vanderbilt University YAF

Kyle Rosenthal
Chairman
George Mason University YAF

Meghan Liskey
Chairman
University of Alabama Birmingham YAF

Bryce R. Dively
Chairman
Marquette University YAF

Colton Trina
Chairman
Southern Illinois University-
Carbondale YAF

Jorge Villarreal
Chairman
Texas Tech YAF

Gabriel Oros
Chairman
Whitworth University YAF

Derek James Peyton
Chairman
California State University of Los
Angeles YAF

Brayden M. Woods
Chairman
Angelo State University YAF

Grant Wolf
Chairman
Southern Methodist University YAF

Olga Kukharsky
Chairman
North Oconee High School YAF

Johnathan A. Dunker
Chairman
Missouri S&T YAF

Joseph Ballard
Chairman
University of Alabama YAF

Noah Tillery
Chairman
Jackson County High School YAF

Michael Moroz
Chairman
University of Pennsylvania YAF

Bryan Baratian
Chairman
Brandeis University YAF

Tucker Morey
Chairman
Pittsburg State YAF

John B. Snyder IV
Chairman
Hermon High School YAF

Isaac Da Silva
Chairman
California State University Long Beach
YAF

Timmy Wassell
Chairman
Atholton High School YAF

Jacob Chludzinski
Chairman
University of Michigan YAF

Ross Dubberly
Chairman
University of Georgia YAF

Kenny Xu
Chairman
Davidson College YAF

Elliot Fuchs
Chairman
Yeshiva University YAF

Taylor Leal
Chairman
Canyon High School YAF

Thomas Pearson
Chairman
Libertyville High School YAF

Ian Smith
Chairman
University of Kansas YAF

Karen Ben-Moyal
Chairman
University of Houston YAF

GeriLynn Merriam
Chairman
Grand Valley State University YAF

Regina Barton
Chairman
University of Cincinnati YAF

Taylor Cripe
Chairman
Utah State University YAF

Wyatt Germaine
Chairman
Rancho Campana YAF