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U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos touted the new Title IX regulations as motivated by the Department of Education's desire to "rebalance scales of justice" and effectively provide "due process" and "fairness" in investigations of sexual assault, specifically on college campuses. In fact, these new regulations only serve to further tip the already heavily weighted scales against victims of sexual assault and harassment.

There is no due process for survivors: historically, many victims have not been believed by authorities, their cases have not been investigated, and they have not received any measure of justice.

Several key components of the new Title IX regulations, developed and recently released by the Department of Education, will make a young survivor's journey to healing more fear-provoking than ever, including: allowing a survivor to be cross-examined by an advocate of the accuser's choice, the exclusion of requiring trauma-informed investigation procedures that take into account the psychological impact sexual misconduct can have on a survivor's memory, and allowing the burden of proof to be raised to "clear and convincing evidence." These changes to Title IX foster a system that lacks progress and accountability and leaves victims vulnerable to retraumatization.

The victim services field has made tremendous strides in advancing systemic response to crime victims by encouraging a victim-centered, trauma-informed process. We fear that these steps in Title IX may negate those efforts.