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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RALIANCE Statement on the Department of Education's New Title IX Final Rule

Following the U.S. Department of Education's publication of the final Title IX regulation, RALIANCE issued the following statement:

We are deeply disappointed in the Department of Education's final Title IX regulations released today that roll back protections for survivors of campus sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse. The new rule will make America's college campuses and K-12 schools less safe, and we are troubled that despite more than 100,000 comments submitted by RALIANCE and others with expertise in sexual assault prevention and response expressing grave concern about the new rule, it was still released today.

The new rule will put students at greater risk and make it even more difficult for survivors to come forward by significantly narrowing the definition of sexual harassment and limiting cases for which schools are responsible. At this time of a pandemic in our country when students are under a great deal of stress, they shouldn't have to worry about whether appropriate protections will be in place regarding sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse. That's why, despite this new rule, we call on schools and administrators to continue their leadership and action to create safer campus and school cultures where these behaviors are not tolerated – and to communicate this to students. Many institutions are already refusing to shirk their responsibility to students by developing and implementing their own high standards, and we hope others follow suit.

No workplace or industry is immune from sexual harassment, assault and abuse. Safety must be the top priority of our schools, workplaces and communities. RALIANCE will continue to fight for survivors and hold our society and institutions to a higher standard of transparency and accountability.

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RALIANCE is a national partnership dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation. RALIANCE partners with a wide range of organizations to improve their cultures and create environments free from sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse. Every day, RALIANCE helps leaders establish safe workplaces and strong communities by advancing research, influencing policy, and supporting innovative programs. RALIANCE is based in Washington, DC, and combines decades of experience and resources from three leading national sexual violence prevention organizations into a single, unified force. Visit us at www.RALIANCE.org for more information.