



August 3, 2017

Dear Secretary DeVos and Acting Assistant Secretary Jackson:

I am writing to request a meeting with you on behalf of the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, our member programs, and the survivors who live in the District of Columbia (District).

The Coalition is the federally-recognized statewide coalition of domestic violence programs, organizations and individuals, and the leading voice for survivors and advocates in the District. We work closely with all eight universities in the District to advocate for policy change, strengthen university services, enhance the systemic response to interpersonal violence, and advocate for all survivors of dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on college campuses.

We understand you recently met with a few survivors and advocates, however we would like to give you a more extensive snapshot of how dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking is systemically addressed on campuses and the impact of that response in the lives of survivors. We hope to share our expertise with you and convey how the Department of Education's policies have not only guided our work, but also the experiences of survivors on our campuses.

The District is fortunate to have a myriad of diverse environments for higher education, including a historically Black university, religious and non-religious institutions, commuter campuses, programs for professionals receiving continuing education, and colleges and universities of many different sizes. We believe it would benefit the Department of Education to meet with the Coalition to understand the continuum of our extensive collaboration with university leadership, advocates, and survivors to further our goals of keeping all survivors safe and holding offenders accountable.

Please let us know if and when you are available to meet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karma Cottman".

Karma Cottman
Executive Director
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence