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June 6, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon:

Thank you for testifying before the Education and Workforce Committee on Wednesday, June 4, 2025 on the Department of Education's FY 2026 budget proposal. During my question time, you graciously offered to provide me with responses in writing or to follow up with a complete response. To that end, I have listed below the issues for which I seek responses from you and the Department. Thank you for your attention to the matter below.

1. You indicated proposals for the structure of the Department of Education (Department) are moving forward. Do you commit to sending Congress your proposals to make changes to the Department as you make them?
2. Under the Department's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, the two workforce development programs administered by the Department, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education program and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act programs, when combined would cut them by nearly 33 percent. Please confirm.
3. Under H.R. 1, the Republican's reconciliation bill, we see a change to eligibility to a number of programs that will result in Americans losing access, including access to the Pell Grant. Does the Department's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget cut the Pell Grant on top of the cuts made in H.R. 1, as passed by the House?
4. At the hearing, you testified that there were problems evaluating TRIO programs. Does the Department now evaluate TRIO programs for effectiveness? Many of us believe that the Department has or had internal mechanisms that could be used to evaluate the effectiveness of TRIO programs. Can you confirm that the Department has TRIO evaluations and that you have familiarized yourself with them?

5. There are nearly two million student loan borrowers¹ who have applied for income driven repayment (IDR) plans who are caught up in a backlog. Will you commit to working with servicers to address this backlog and ensure that vulnerable borrowers are not thrust into unaffordable repayment plans with no recourse? If you plan on working with servicers, can you detail how you plan to do so?
6. You and Department officials have frequently mentioned the need for schools to comply with Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act*. The law requires that the Department send the House and Senate education committees written notice, along with an explanation, of plans to terminate funds to any entity where a Title VI violation has been determined.² The law requires that such a termination shall not take effect until 30 days after that report is submitted. Can you confirm whether the Department has filed a report with the House Education and Workforce Committee on any action you've taken?³ If so, how many such reports have been filed and when were they processed and delivered to the relevant committees?
7. During the hearing you testified your belief that there is a lack of viewpoint diversity at many institutions of higher education. Is the lack of viewpoint diversity a violation of Title VI?

Given the time sensitive nature of my questions, I look forward to receiving your replies to my inquiries from the hearing no later than Friday, June 13, 2025. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Ranking Member

¹Annie Nova, *Education Department backlog leaves nearly 2 million student loan borrowers in limbo*, CNBC, (May 20, 2025), <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/05/20/education-department-backlog-student-loan-borrowers-struggle-to-get-into-idr-plan.html?msockid=3107c89110b262b52c03dcae11056322>

² *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, § 602, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-1.

³ *Id.*