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July 14, 2026

Committee on Education & Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.8 million members of the AFT who work in education, healthcare and public services, I write in opposition to the bills (H.R. 9602 - H.R. 9611) being marked up tomorrow that would dismantle the Education Department and imperil the funding and services the department provides to students and schools.

The Trump administration has used interagency agreements to systematically transfer the day-to-day management of core Education Department programs to other federal agencies—most significantly, to the Department of Labor. This effort began, without congressional approval, with a quietly executed agreement in May 2025 with the Labor Department, transferring career and technical education, adult education and family literacy funding representing approximately \$2.67 billion in federal funds. Early results confirmed advocates' fears: States were forced to navigate two separate grants-management systems, causing funding delays and administrative confusion. Rather than learning from these problems, the administration held up the CTE transfer as a "model" and used it as the template for six more IAAs in November 2025, covering nearly the entire Education Department. These are a deliberate step toward eliminating the Education Department—and they put our students, schools and communities at serious risk. Congress should reject this effort, including by opposing the bills before the committee tomorrow.

The administration's use of IAAs, and these bills to put a congressional veneer on the moves, harm students, schools and communities. Contrary to the titles of the bills indicating that dismantling the Education Department will lead to "less bureaucracy," these bills will increase bureaucracy even as they disrupt funding to schools and students, and they will weaken protections for students.

Dismantling the Department of Education will disrupt funding to schools. When the administration transferred CTE programs to the Labor Department earlier this year, states were forced to use two different grants-management systems—causing funding delays and widespread confusion. Now this same failed approach is being applied to programs 20 times larger.

Other agencies lack the necessary expertise. The Labor Department has no experience running K-12 education programs, overseeing civil rights compliance in schools or managing the complex accountability systems required by the Every Student Succeeds Act. Educators and advocates agree: This will erode oversight and leave the most vulnerable students behind.

These moves also threaten civil rights enforcement. Moving education programs out of the Education Department weakens the infrastructure for enforcing civil rights protections for students with disabilities, English language learners and students experiencing homelessness.

Finally, these bills will increase bureaucracy, not efficiency. Rather than streamlining government, these bills will create a multiagency structure with overlapping responsibilities, duplicated costs and unclear chains of accountability—making it harder, not easier, for schools and grantees to get answers. Congress must reject and reverse these efforts to dismantle public education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten".

Randi Weingarten
President, AFT

RW : emc opeiu #2 afl-cio