



Arizona State Senate

Office of the President

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon, Secretary of Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon,

Congratulations on your confirmation to lead the U.S. Department of Education. I have no doubt that, under your leadership, American education will be restored to its former levels of excellence and commitment to lifelong learning.

I write to commend the Trump Administration's efforts to hold universities receiving federal funding accountable to the law. For too long, state, and federal officials have allowed university regents, presidents, faculty, and staff to indoctrinate our young men and women with un-American propaganda. They have taught our college students to hate the greatness of our nation and discriminate against others. Many colleges have even done the bare minimum – or nothing at all in some cases – to stand in defense of our Jewish brothers and sisters who have been attacked for their national origin, heritage, and faith.

Thankfully, your administration is reversing this grave injustice on all fronts. I was extremely heartened to learn that your department is holding universities accountable for their refusal to conform to existing laws blocking any institution from receiving federal funding due to discrimination based on race, color, and national origin. We both know that money is an extremely powerful motivator, and I hope that your reasoned and lawful threat of investigation causes each of the highlighted universities to reverse course on their illegal actions and policies. It did not go unnoticed that Arizona State University, in my home state, was a member of both lists of universities facing investigations by the federal government. Sadly, this notoriety is unsurprising. Just last month, I sent a letter to our state's three public university presidents, which included ASU President Michael Crow, requesting compliance with an executive order issued by President Donald J. Trump, which ended all discriminatory activities associated with

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DEI practices and programs. I asked each institution to identify and publicly release a plan for compliance with the order and am eager to hear their responses.

Arizona's public universities, as well as the Arizona Board of Regents, have demonstrated a troubling track record of using tax dollars to implement DEI programs. Examples include job postings addressing commitments to DEI, required trainings for staff and faculty that push discriminatory ideas of "critiquing whiteness" and "heterosexuality is privileged and going unquestioned," as well as requiring students to obtain credits in DEI-related courses like "Introduction to Queer Studies" and "Multicultural Perspectives of Natural Resource Management."

As I warned these university presidents, failure to comply with the Trump Administration's efforts to enforce federal laws would likely result in these institutions losing federal dollars and being slapped with expensive lawsuits, which would translate into much higher tuition costs for Arizona students and families. There are no winners in these universities' rebellion against our laws and values.

Madam Secretary, I would love to meet with you soon as you continue with your mandate to enforce our statutes and hold these universities, including Arizona State University, accountable to the law. I fear that there may only be window dressing from Arizona State and other universities, as their leaders attempt to satisfy the bare minimum of President Trump's requirements, while plotting to resurface these illicit activities once a new administration is sworn into office. State and federal collaboration is, in my humble opinion, necessary to force lasting change from these universities. You can be assured that the Arizona State Senate, under my leadership, will stand with the Trump Administration's efforts to hold these public universities accountable to the law.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Petersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "P".

Warren Petersen
President of the Arizona State Senate