

God is still speaking

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**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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Statement on the Action of the Trump Administration to Rescind Title IX Protections for Transgender Students

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The Trump administration's action to rescind federal protections for transgender students under Title IX is both disturbing and a disgrace to liberty and justice for all. No doubt some will interpret this action as declaring open season for bullying and discrimination against anyone whose gender identity or expression may not readily conform to stereotypical binary social norms of masculinity or femininity. The safety and well-being of transgender students are now more at risk as this action denies them the protections they need and rightly deserve in our communities. As a Christian, it is clear to me that this action violates the "love your neighbor" commandment given by Jesus.

The premise that this issue should be left up to the states is wrong. It is the role of the federal government to establish the baseline, as provided under Title IX, for how all students are to be treated with dignity, fairness and equality. Transgender students already experience extremely high levels of bullying. A [GLSEN study](#) reports that 3 out of 4 transgender students say they don't feel safe at school. Such environments have a serious negative effect on the sense of self of worth of transgender persons, and not only when they are students. The [Williams Institute of the UCLA Law School reports](#) that half of all out transgender persons attempt suicide at some point in their lives.

Now is the time to stand with transgender students. Make sure the Trump administration hears from you in support of the rights of transgender students under Title IX. Call the offices of [Attorney General Sessions](#), [Education Secretary DeVos](#) and the [White House](#) to share your voice. Make sure your [members of Congress](#) hear from you and tell them to pass a trans-inclusive safe schools act. And, advocate at the local level, with your local school board and administration, calling on them to ensure the safety and equal treatment of transgender students in school policies and their implementation.

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