



February 4th, 2025

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the 100,000 members and supporters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I write to express **strong opposition to Linda McMahon's nomination for U.S. Secretary of Education** due to her having no significant background in education, school administration, or civil rights protections, making her unsuitable for this position.

To ensure a future of equal opportunity — and equal rewards — in the workforce, we need to start with our educational system. The U.S. Department of Education is charged with protecting students' civil rights and expanding educational opportunity and attainment for all students. Essential to this is removing gender-based barriers that keep not only girls but all students from pursuing their dreams and reaching their potential.

The Department of Education is charged with overseeing federal funds targeted to closing achievement gaps in student populations, including for students with disabilities, low-income students, and minority students. McMahon's support for diverting resources away from public schools in order to fund the education of a few students at private schools do not provide the same rights and protections to students as public schools, such as the protections in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Every Student Succeeds Act. For example, students in private voucher schools can be denied Title IX enforcement by the U.S. Department of Education even when schools fail to create climates safe from sexual harassment and assault, discriminate against pregnant and LGBTQ students, or discriminate in hiring teachers.

Contrary to the U.S. Department of Education's mission to implement laws protecting students from discrimination based on sex, race, color, disability, age, and national origin, McMahon has demonstrated hostility toward Title IX protections for LGBTQ+ students. She also seeks to dismantle initiatives in higher education spaces, threatening the inclusion and success of youth with diverse perspectives and backgrounds on college and university campuses. The next Secretary of Education should be committed to strengthening students' civil rights, not weakening them.

For these reasons, AAUW urges you to vote no on Linda McMahon's nomination to be the Secretary of Education. Voting on McMahon's nomination may be scored in the AAUW Action Fund's *Congressional Voting Record* for the 119th Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-728-3300 or kissellm@aauw.org with any questions.

Sincerely,
Meghan Kissell, MSW
Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy