

November 26, 2025

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

Dear Secretary McMahon:

We write in strong opposition to the interagency agreements (IAAs) between the Department of Education (“Department”) and the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of the Interior, Department of Labor, and Department of State.¹ These actions to move critical education programs and services to other agencies are an illegal abrogation of the Department’s statutory responsibilities.

The federal investment in education is vital to help level the playing field so all students in every corner of every state have the opportunity to get a quality education. About 90 percent of all students² and 95 percent of students with disabilities attend public schools³. The IAAs seek to send to other agencies responsibilities that statutes, including the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* and the *Higher Education Act*, specifically give to the Department of Education. These actions are clearly contradictory to Congressional intent.

You wrongfully claim that IAAs are “empower[ing] parents and states, promot[ing] innovation, and deliver[ing] program improvements.”⁴ But state and local education agencies have already reported difficulties communicating with the Department following RIFs earlier this year.⁵ Moving tasks the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) has handled for decades to the Department of Labor (DOL) has the potential to create even more delays and chaos that prevent states and districts from accessing resources they are entitled to under the law.

Furthermore, you have caused disruption and inefficiency by transferring the responsibilities of the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education to the Department of Labor⁶ and firing a significant number of staff at the Department⁷.

¹ <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-announces-six-new-agency-partnerships-break-federal-bureaucracy>

² <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=372#PK12-enrollment>

³³ <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=59>

⁴ <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-announces-six-new-agency-partnerships-break-federal-bureaucracy>

⁵ <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/states-get-antsy-as-education-department-layoffs-delay-millions-for-schools/2025/03>

⁶ <https://careertech.org/news/statement-acte-advance-cte-deeply-concerned-about-interagency-agreement-that-threatens-the-integrity-of-career-and-technical-education/>

⁷ <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/ed-dept-offices-will-be-virtually-wiped-out-in-latest-layoffs/2025/10>

The IAAs will also create confusion for the higher education system. They upend the implementation of multiple programs that are central to ensuring students can access college and succeed when they get there. Overall, your actions risk slowing implementation of these programs by sending them to agencies that do not have the expertise or infrastructure to administer them.

You have repeatedly stated your intent to eliminate the Department of Education, most notably in the “Final Mission” memo⁸ released in March and again in your USA Today op-ed published on November 16, 2025.⁹

These IAAs are a clear and irrefutable attempt to continue the Trump administration’s plan to dismantle the Department without congressional consent. **We reaffirm that an act of Congress created the Department, and only an act of Congress can dismantle it.**

We reiterate our strong opposition to these IAAs and to the wrongful destruction of the Department of Education. We demand that you reverse course immediately and work with Congress to improve rather than decimate our country’s system of public education. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



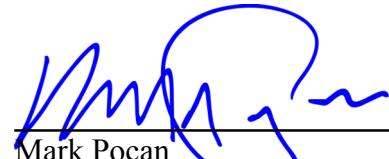
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Early
Childhood, Elementary and
Secondary Education



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Higher
Education and Workforce
Development



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

⁸ <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/speech/secretary-mcmahon-our-departments-final-mission>

⁹ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2025/11/16/school-funding-trump-dismantle-education-department/87251723007/>

Delia C. Ramirez

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Member of Congress

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Dwight Evans

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William R. Keating

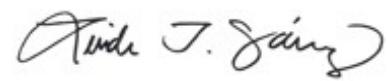
William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore

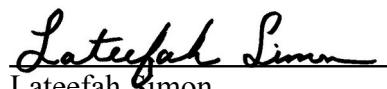
Gwen S. Moore
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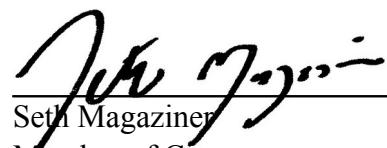
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