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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

June 7, 2016

Attorney General Chris Koster
Missouri Attorney General's Office
Supreme Court Building
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Attorney General Koster:

As you know, the recent joint “significant guidance” letter sent to public schools throughout the country from the U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Education (ED) has been met with great concern and controversy. As guidance, the publication purports to merely interpret the law, as passed by Congress; however, this guidance expands the meaning of the statute passed by Congress and fails to provide legal authority from the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) for many of the obligations imposed on educators and educational institutions. In your role as Attorney General, you play an important part in defending Missourians from any overreach by the federal government. This action by the DOJ and ED is the definition of extreme overreach by the federal government, and this reinterpretation of Title IX is fundamentally flawed.

Last month you expressed a willingness to file a friend-of-the-court brief in the case of *G.G. v. Gloucester County School Board* should the case go to the U.S. Supreme Court. Given the urgency and importance of this issue in ensuring the privacy and safety of children throughout Missouri, I ask that you take more conclusive action and join Texas and 10 other states in filing a lawsuit against the federal government for its executive overreach.

As a mother and former teacher, I am deeply concerned for the safety and wellbeing of students. As a citizen, I am appalled the federal government would think it should dictate to our local schools how best to run their schools. Further, threatening to remove federal funding for schools jeopardizes our students’ educations and futures by robbing their schools of vital resources. Mandates such as this do not improve access or level playing fields; they only treat our children as pawns in this extreme political game where political correctness is placed above sound policy.

This guidance is contrary to Missouri values and mischaracterizes the scope and application of Title IX. I reiterate the gravity of this issue and urge your swift action in this matter.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vicky Hartzler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress