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

Dear Secretary McMahon:

As a coalition of parents, educators, and leaders from across the nation, we write to share our collective vision for the vital role of the Department of Education in supporting America's students, teachers, and schools.

The Department of Education is a cornerstone of our nation's commitment to ensuring every child has access to quality education. Since its establishment, the Department has played an irreplaceable role in:

- Protecting rights in education and ensuring equal access for all students
- Providing crucial funding and resources to underserved communities
- Collecting and analyzing educational data to inform policy decisions
- Supporting evidence-based research that improves teaching and learning
- Administering federal student aid that makes higher education accessible
- Establishing guidelines that protect students with disabilities
- Strengthening the critical pipeline between education and the workforce through career and technical education programs
- Collaborating to ensure all students have reliable internet access and digital tools for learning while also fostering innovation in educational technology that expand opportunities for students and educators
- Serving as the vital bridge between students, families, and other federal agencies, including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure coordinated delivery of essential services like connectivity, healthcare, and nutrition.

As you assume this crucial leadership role, we urge you to strengthen these core functions while addressing education's pressing challenges today. Our students navigate an increasingly complex world that demands new skills and competencies. They need safe, supportive learning environments to develop critical thinking abilities, emotional intelligence, and the knowledge necessary to succeed in the 21st century.

Specifically, we ask that you:

1. Maintain robust civil rights enforcement to protect all students from discrimination and ensure equal educational opportunities.
2. Preserve and enhance federal funding streams that support high-need schools and students, including Title I and IDEA.

3. Strengthen data collection and research initiatives that help identify effective educational practices and improvement areas.
4. Continue federal oversight of student loan programs while working to make higher education more affordable and accessible.
5. Support initiatives that promote safe and healthy learning environments, including efforts to address school safety and mental health.
6. Protect and enforce policies that safeguard vulnerable student populations.
7. Strengthen coordination with other federal agencies to ensure seamless delivery of essential services to students and families, including healthcare, nutrition assistance, and digital connectivity programs.

The Department's role in establishing protections helps ensure that all students, regardless of their background or zip code, have opportunities to learn and thrive. Now more than ever, it is critical to uphold and strengthen the Department of Education—not dismantle it—so that it can continue its essential work in advancing educational equity, supporting educators, and preparing students for success in the modern economy. Your leadership will be crucial in maintaining these protections while fostering innovation and excellence in American education.

We represent millions of stakeholders who work daily to support student success. Our collective experience has shown us that a strong federal role in education, working in partnership with states and local communities, is essential to preparing the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and innovators.

As you begin your tenure, we stand ready to work with you to strengthen the Department of Education and advance its mission of promoting student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Respectfully,