



## Focus on Religious Freedom

*"Freedom of conscience is the core of all freedom."  
Pope Benedict XVI*

### Religious Exemptions Denied in Proposed Changes to Dept. of Education Regulations

A rewriting of the Title IX Dept. of Education rules puts at risk the safety, privacy, and equality of girls and woman at schools that are federally funded. This recently proposed regulation "removes protections for religious institutions that adhere to a traditional belief on sexuality, gender, and marriage by eliminating previous protections that were reaffirmed in 2020." <sup>(1)</sup>

In 2010, when that administration expanded the definition of "sexual discrimination" in Title IX regulations to include alternative sexual identities, many religious schools sought assurances they wouldn't be forced - in violation of their sincerely held religious tenets and teachings - to open single-sex dorms to members of the opposite sex, to open bathrooms and locker rooms to individuals whose subjective self-gender identity runs counter to their biology, or to hire openly married same-sex couples. <sup>(2)</sup>

The long-standing religious exemption, guaranteed in 2010, was reaffirmed in the 2020 Title IX regulation. "Yet even though Title IX's religious exemption is firmly grounded in statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions, the recent 2022 draft Title IX regulation removes the religious protections without providing any justification for the proposed change." <sup>(3)</sup>

(fedsoc.org, 7/22/22; ed.gov/news, 6/23/22; heritage.org, 7/18/22(1)(2)(3); theconversation.com, 6/22/22)

*"There is no question that we are living in the most troubled times. Fundamental truths about human life, about marriage and the family and about the conscience, are being called into question... But we are full of courage because we know that our Lord is with us. He's called us to be His soldiers on the ground, working with Him for the salvation of the world." - Cardinal Raymond Burke*