

84TH DISTRICT STATE CAPITOL PO. BOX 30014 LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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CAROL GLANVILLE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

April 12, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education programs and activities. One of the key provisions of Title IX is that schools must have a designated Title IX Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law and responding to reports of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, assault, and violence.

Unfortunately, there have been cases where individuals in positions of power, such as coaches, teachers, and administrators, have used their professional positions to prevent students or colleagues from reporting incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. This kind of behavior is unacceptable and can have devastating consequences for survivors of sexual violence.

My bill, HB 4124, addresses this issue by imposing penalties on individuals who use their professional position to prevent someone else from reporting a Title IX violation. This measure sends a strong message that protecting survivors and holding accountable those who would silence them is a top priority.

First and foremost, this law would serve to protect survivors of sexual violence. When someone uses their power to prevent a survivor from reporting an incident, they are effectively silencing that survivor and denying them the justice they deserve. This law stands to empower survivors to come forward and seek justice by making it clear that this kind of intimidation is not acceptable and will result in serious consequences.

Furthermore, punishing individuals who try to silence survivors would help to create a culture of accountability. When people know that there are serious consequences for trying to prevent someone else from reporting a Title IX violation, they are less likely to engage in this kind of behavior. This would help to create an environment in which survivors are more likely to be believed and supported, and in which perpetrators are more likely to be held accountable for their actions.

Finally, this law would serve to protect the integrity of the Title IX process. When someone tries to prevent a survivor from reporting an incident, they are undermining the very purpose of the Title IX Coordinator's role. By punishing this kind of behavior, this law would help to ensure that the Title IX





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process is working as it should, and that everyone has equal access to the protections and remedies provided by the law.

In conclusion, laws such as HB 4124 that punish individuals who use their professional position to prevent someone else from reporting a Title IX violation are an important step in protecting survivors, holding perpetrators accountable, and ensuring the integrity of the Title IX process. By making it clear that this kind of behavior will not be tolerated, we can create a culture in which survivors are supported and believed, and in which perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

Sincerely,

nal A. Glenith

Carol Glanville, State Representative The Eighty-Fourth District



