Southern Maryland Democratic Socialists of America
Statement on Trump Administration Title IX rollback for LGBTQ students

November 6, 2026

In September, the Trump administration formally removed the federal rules protecting LGBTQ+ students from discrimination under Title IX. This is a clear continuation of the administration's attempts to scapegoat transgender people and use culture war tactics to distract from the actual material conditions facing people in the United States.

For the past two years, the Southern Maryland Democratic Socialists of America (SOMD DSA), along with PFLAG, Pride SOMD, and Patuxent Friends Meeting, have been urging the St. Mary's County Board of Education (BOE) to adopt an inclusive schools resolution. This resolution would ensure that LGBTQ+ students and staff have a safe, respectful working and learning environment.

Despite hearing from hundreds of petition signers and dozens of speakers at BOE meetings, the board has refused to bring the matter up for discussion at a meeting. Frequently, the justification given is that Title IX already provides this protection, or that most aspects of the Inclusive Schools Resolution are already in place without a written policy. However, that thin justification now no longer applies.

With the loss of Title IX protections, it's more important than ever that SMCPS adopts clear, consistent policies on inclusion for LGBTQ+ students and staff members.