



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

January 30, 2018

Lyle D. Roelofs
President
Berea College
CPO 2182
Berea, KY 40404

Dear President Roelofs:

I write in response to your October 31, 2017, letter to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), which you asked OCR to accept as a withdrawal of Berea College's religious exemption from Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. § 1681.

In 1985, OCR granted Berea College's request for a religious exemption from certain provisions of the Title IX regulations. Your letter explains that Berea College is not "controlled by or affiliated with any church or religious organization," and that "[a]s an independent institution of higher education, Berea College is fully committed to complying with all aspects of Title IX." Your letter also states that based on Berea College's "long-standing policies and practices regarding non-discrimination, the College does not intend to assert this exemption in the future."

Your letter requests that "OCR remove the College from any list of colleges and universities holding a Title IX exemption," and alternatively, "that OCR include this withdrawal in any public disclosure of records relating to the College's status in relation to Title IX." At times, OCR must produce to members of the public lists of institutions that currently hold exemptions or have requested exemptions in the past. If OCR produces such lists, it will take steps to ensure that Berea College's status is accurately reflected. In addition, Berea College's 1976 request letter, 1985 updated letter, and 2017 withdrawal letter, as well as OCR's responses, will be posted with other historical exemption materials on the Department's website.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Jackson".

Candice Jackson
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

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