February 23, 2017

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), I write to express my strong opposition to your Administration’s recent decision to rescind guidance to our nation’s schools to allow students to use the bathroom, locker room or other facilities (“bathroom”) that reflects their sexual identity, rather than bathroom that corresponds to the sex they were assigned at birth. We are concerned that without this guidance, students or school staff who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and/or others may be subject unfair treatment, which may lead to students underperforming or abandoning their education as well as a variety of other negative consequences.

Founded in 1937, NACAC is committed to maintaining professional standards that foster ethical and social responsibility among those involved in the college application and enrollment process, as outlined in the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice (SPGP). Through our advocacy efforts, we are also dedicated to ensuring all students have access to high quality school counseling to help them make informed decisions as they prepare for and pursue college or career options.

Throughout our history, we have promoted policies that help students, regardless of their background, ethnicity, sexual orientation or sexual identity, prepare for and enroll in a college that meets their academic, financial, social and other needs. Our members are guided by the SPGP, the cornerstone of our organizations, which specifically states:
Member schools, colleges and universities, as well as other institutions, organizations and individuals dedicated to the pursuit of higher education, believe in the dignity, worth and potential of each and every student. To enable all students to make the dream of higher education a reality, these institutions and individuals develop and provide programs and services in postsecondary counseling, admission and financial aid. They strive to eliminate bias within the education system based on ethnicity, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, national origin, and disability. They understand and value the importance of college counseling and view it as a fundamental aspect of their job as educators.

In order to help students to realize their dreams of a college education, our members work closely with students to explore their postsecondary options. We are concerned that by rescinding this guidance, the Administration may jeopardize the educational and/or professional aspirations of students and staff who identify as LGBT or in another manner. As we have seen around the country, we cannot defer to local and/or state governments to make these decisions because they have already developed policies that exclude these students. The joint Department of Education and the Department of Justice guidance helps to ensure that students, regardless of where they reside, their gender identity and/or sexual orientation, can fully realize their educational potential in a safe and secure learning environment. Your Administration’s decision to rescind this guidance will make the school environment less safe for certain individuals simply because of who they are.

We are disappointed that you support this change in policy and urge you to reconsider. Please contact NACAC’s Director of Government Relations Michael Rose (mrose@nacacnet.org), if you need additional information or have any questions about NACAC or our legislative priorities.

Sincerely,

Joyce Smith
Chief Executive Officer
National Association for College Admission Counseling

CC: The Honorable Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education
The Honorable Jeff Sessions, Attorney General