



## News Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Board to Consider Cortese's Proposal to Review Title IX Regarding Sexual Assaults and Harassment**

At its Tuesday, October 20 meeting, the Board of Supervisors will consider moving forward with a review of how the County's K-12 schools and colleges are complying with Title IX rules and regulations in response to complaints of sexual assaults and harassment.

Supervisor Dave Cortese called for this review at the September 22 Board meeting in response to federal changes to Title IX announced in May by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, and an urgent plea from sexual assault survivors and advocates who believe the new guidelines weaken survivors' protections and discourage them from filing complaints. The proposal asked for administration to return to the Board with a framework of a Title IX analysis.

The [report](#) to be considered on Tuesday provides an initial analysis of how the administration will approach the work, estimates of time preparation and

estimated costs. Funds for this project may be used from the Office of Gender-Based Violence Prevention budget.

At a [virtual news conference](#) on Monday, October 19, sexual assault survivors reiterated their strong support for a Title IX review and urged the Board to approve Supervisor Cortese's proposal. They reflected remarks that the Board heard in two hours of testimony at the September 22 meeting.

"We don't expect the county to fix this single handedly with an audit," said Rachel Sun, a student at Gun High School. "But we're hoping that the county will conduct this review not tomorrow or sometime in the future, but now. As survivors we are tired and need our elected official to take our side."

Said Stanford University students Maia Brockbank, "Nothing can change with only survivors as watchdogs."

Also speaking at Monday's news conference hosted by Supervisor Cortese were Michelle Dauber, Stanford Law professor who led the campaign to recall Judge Aaron Persky, and Stanford student Betsy Kim.

"More needs to be done to prevent sexual assaults from happening in the first place," said Supervisor Cortese. "The Trump administration gutted protections in Title IX and increased the likelihood that sexual assaults and harassment will occur and watered down the responses that administrators at schools and universities should take. This review is needed now more than ever."

Santa Clara County would be the first in the nation to conduct a review of Title IX policies and procedures for handling sexual violence in schools, colleges and universities.

The issue is [Item 12](#) on the agenda and will not be heard by the Board before 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the Office of Supervisor Cortese at 408-299-5030.

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