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CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Resolution Condemning Efforts to Dismantle the U.S. Department of Education

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2025, President Donald Trump signed an executive order titled "*Improving Educational Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities*," which seeks to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and transfer all authority over education to the states.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education, established in 1980, has been instrumental in promoting educational excellence and ensuring equal access to education across the nation. Its responsibilities include administering federal funding to states and school districts, enforcing civil rights protections, and conducting research on educational institutions.

WHEREAS, the ED plays a pivotal role in managing federal student aid programs, including Pell Grants and federal student loans, which have enabled countless students from low-income families to pursue higher education and improve their socioeconomic status.

WHEREAS, in the 2023-24 academic year, over 6.2 million students nationwide relied on Pell Grants to afford higher education, with thousands of students from Community Board 10's district benefiting from these grants to attend colleges and universities. The dismantling of the ED would put these crucial financial aid programs at risk, potentially denying many students the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education and limiting their ability to achieve economic mobility.

WHEREAS, the loss of federal student aid oversight would increase the risk of predatory lending practices by private loan providers, disproportionately harming first-generation college students, low-income students, and students of color.

WHEREAS, the ED oversees critical programs such as Title I funding for disadvantaged schools, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for students with disabilities, and the National School Lunch Program, which provides free and reduced-price meals to eligible students.

WHEREAS, New York City Public Schools serve approximately 912,064 students, with 16.3% identified as English Language Learners and 23% as students with disabilities. The ED's support is vital in addressing the diverse needs of these students.

WHEREAS, Community Board 10 encompasses Central Harlem, which includes NYC Geographic Districts 3 and 5. District 3 serves approximately 19,374 students across 43 public schools, while District 5 serves approximately 20,000 students across 35 public schools.

WHEREAS, within District 3, approximately 58% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, 24% are students with disabilities, and 13% are English Language Learners. In District 5, nearly 73% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, 25% are students with disabilities, and 14% are English Language Learners. These numbers underscore the essential role

of federal funding in supporting students who rely on these services for academic success and well-being.

WHEREAS, federal funding through the ED supports various programs within Districts 3 and 5, including initiatives for English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students. These programs are essential in providing equitable educational opportunities and resources.

WHEREAS, there are ongoing efforts in various states to undermine comprehensive education by promoting curricula that emphasize only the positive aspects of American history while neglecting significant portions of our collective past. Federal oversight has historically been crucial in enforcing civil rights and advancing educational equity.

WHEREAS, the potential dismantling of the ED threatens the continuation and effectiveness of these programs, jeopardizing the educational outcomes and well-being of students in our community.

WHEREAS, constitutionally, the President of the United States does not have the unilateral authority to eliminate a federal department such as the ED, as such an action requires congressional approval. The attempt to bypass this legislative process raises significant concerns about the overreach of executive power.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 strongly condemns any efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education, recognizing such actions as detrimental to the students and families within our district and across the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 urges Federal, State, and City Representatives to oppose any initiatives aimed at weakening or eliminating the ED, emphasizing the importance of sustained Federal support for education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 affirms the importance of Federal financial aid programs in making higher education accessible to all students, particularly those from marginalized communities, and opposes any efforts that would weaken these resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 commits to ongoing efforts to educate and inform the public about their rights and the implications of dismantling the ED, ensuring that residents remain engaged in advocating for equitable and well-funded public education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of Manhattan Community Board 10 is empowered to establish relationships, sign letters, petitions, and utilize other tools to ensure that Community Board 10 actively opposes efforts that undermine our education system and harm our students; Manhattan Community Board 10's full board voted unanimously to approved this resolution at the April General Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 with 34 Yes, 0 Recusals, and 0 Abstentions.