

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 04, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon,

I urge your office to launch an immediate investigation into the practices of the Department of Education's Office of Enforcement. According to a recent American Principles Project (APP) report, revealed that under the Biden Administration, nearly 70% of the Department's enforcement actions involved faith-based and career schools, despite these institutions representing less than 10% of students nationwide.¹ It is imperative to determine the extent of any ideological targeting and to hold those responsible accountable for their actions.

For example, in October 2023, ED's Office of Enforcement fined Grand Canyon University, (GCU) \$37.7 million for allegedly misrepresenting the cost of doctoral programs, an allegation GCU has categorically denied and is appealing. The claim has been refuted judicially and administratively: in federal court,² by the Higher Learning Commission in its 2021 comprehensive review,³ and by the Arizona State Approving Agency of the Department of Veterans Affairs in an audit. In fact, GCU places a prominent disclosure on its financial calculator alerting students to both the time and cost involved with taking additional courses while completing a dissertation.

Comparing recent fines imposed by ED for far more serious allegations demonstrates that fines against Christian schools are disproportionately high. In one example, Michigan State University was fined \$4.5 million for a systemic failure to address years of sexual abuse and harassment.⁴ Temple University was fined just \$700,000 for lying to U.S. News & World Report for years

¹JON SCHWEPPE, APP STUDY: BIDEN-HARRIS ADMIN WEAPONIZED EDUCATION OFFICE TO TARGET CHRISTIAN AND CAREER COLLEGES (2024).

²Young v. Grand Canyon University, Inc., 57 F.4th 861 (11th Cir. 2023).

³ GCU News, Government agencies unjustly targeting GCU, GCU NEWS (Oct 5, 2023), <https://news.gcu.edu/pressreleases/government-agencies-unjustly-targeting-gcu/#:~:text=Most%20importantly%20and%20in%20direct,financial%20information%20presented%20to%20students>

⁴ Robin Hattersley, Education Department Levies Largest-Ever Clery Fine Against MSU Over Mishandling of Nassar Scandal, CAMPUS SAFETY (Sep 5, 2019), <https://www.campus safetymagazine.com/news/educationdepartment-levies-largest-ever-clery-fine-against-msu-over-mishandling-of-nassar-scandal/>

about its online M.B.A. program to sustain high rankings and attract more students.⁵ The APP study also notes that the average fine against a Christian school for a Clery Act violation is nearly 3.5 times higher than fines against public and private institutions. It appears that under the Biden Administration, ED was weaponizing the federal government and making an example out of Christian universities.

Additionally, I request that ED shutdown the Office of Enforcement altogether. The continued existence of the office appears to serve as a vehicle for weaponization rather than a tool for oversight. The targeting of Christian universities and career colleges must end.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

⁵ Scott Jaschik, Temple Fined \$700,000 in Rankings Scandal, INSIDE HIGHER ED (Dec 6, 2020), <https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2020/12/07/education-department-fines-temple-700000rankings-scandal>