



## CITY OF SANTA ANA

December 10, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
U.S. Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff  
U.S. Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Letter of Opposition to S.5384**

Dear Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff:

As Santa Ana Councilmembers, we write to express our opposition to S.5384, a bill to abolish the Department of Education (DOE). This bill would have extreme ramifications for the city and students, parents, and teachers across the country.

The Department of Education is vital to our country's success. Its initiatives have led to countless students achieving their education and career goals. The City of Santa Ana works closely with the Department, helping ensure our students receive a quality and affordable education regardless of their zip code or economic status. Our city and our nation are strong because of the opportunities the Department of Education creates for students of all ages. Abolishing the Department of Education would especially harm learners from low-income communities, like Santa Ana, who benefit greatly from the Department's oversight of federal financial aid.

The potential impacts on Santa Ana residents include the loss of important federal funding, like Title I Grants, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding for special education programs, and Pell grants. Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) relies on federal Title I funding to support schools serving low-income students. If the DOE is abolished, these funds may no longer be available, potentially reducing resources for students most in need. Federal funds under the IDEA support special education programs. Without these funds, the district would need to find alternative ways to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Lastly, students attending higher education institutions in or near Santa Ana, including Santa Ana College, may lose access to Pell Grants and federal student loans, making college less affordable for many.

CITY ATTORNEY  
Sonia R. Carvalho

CITY MANAGER  
Alvaro Nuñez

CITY CLERK  
Jennifer L. Hall

The bill would further complicate the federal government's role in education by distributing some of the Education Department's responsibilities to other agencies. Not only would the bill eliminate the Department, but it would also create an inefficient process for the remaining responsibilities left to the federal government to perform. At a time when Congress is discussing government efficiency, abolishing the Department and decentralizing its responsibilities would contradict the ultimate goal of greater transparency and efficiency in the federal government.

It is in the interest of our nation that the Department of Education remains intact and receives the resources necessary to achieve its mission. We strongly urge you to oppose this bill and focus on efforts to strengthen our nation's education system.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Vazquez  
Councilmember, Ward 2



Jessie Lopez  
Councilmember, Ward 3



Johnathan Ryan Hernandez  
Councilmember, Ward 5