



Commissioner Joe Moss

12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

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Dr. Philomena V. Mantella
Office of the President
1 Campus Drive
3035 James H. Zumberge Hall
Allendale, Michigan 49401

March 28, 2025

Joe Moss
County Commissioner
County of Ottawa
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

Dear Dr. Mantella,

I am writing to respectfully request that Grand Valley State University make immediate changes to programs and policies to protect the safety and civil rights of individuals who visit your campuses, and to comply with Executive Order 14151 of January 20, 2025, and Executive Order 14201 of February 5, 2025.

Request to Abolish DEI

Please take all necessary steps to shut down GVSU's DEI bureaucracy, including the *Division of People, Equity, and Culture* and the *Inclusion and Equity Institute*, in alignment with many of your peers at public and private institutions, including the University of Michigan. Please discontinue segregated graduation celebrations, any use of diversity statements in hiring, DEI in strategic planning, and staff positions historically used to promote DEI. For transparency, please issue a statement regarding GVSU's commitment to colorblind equality and full compliance with federal law and guidance.

Request to Protect Women's Sports

Please take all necessary steps to uphold Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which requires institutions receiving Federal funds to ensure equal opportunity for women to participate in sports. Institutions must recognize biological reality and the differences between men and women to comply with federal law and guidance.

Request to Update Public Safety Policy

Please take all necessary steps to update GVSU's Weapons Policy of October 4, 2023, to protect public safety and add public safety exemptions to the entirety of SLT 6.27 for peace officers and individuals licensed to carry concealed weapons. The University's policy is overly broad, including to the point that it restricts members of law enforcement from using firearms while in the course of their public duties on campus property. This policy conflicts with the long-standing ability of people, such as Ottawa County Sheriff's deputies, to use firearms for their own protection and the protection of those around them in accordance with Michigan law.

I care deeply about the students and faculty of GVSU and encourage you to create a politically neutral campus where students who love America can flourish and where freedom rings.

Sincerely,

Joe Moss
County Commissioner
County of Ottawa