Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 6, 2026

President Maurie McInnis
Yale University
Woodbridge Hall
New Haven, CT 06520
president@yale.edu

Dear President McInnis:

We write to express our deep concerns that Yale University ("Yale" or "the University") may be contemplating a settlement with the Trump Administration[1] amidst troubling reports that the University has preemptively submitted two proposed settlement agreements.[2] We are concerned that Yale has taken these steps and that such a storied and admired institution would consider bowing to the authoritarian impulses of the Trump Administration. Capitulating at this critical moment would be a retreat from Yale's independence as a deeply respected educational institution and would raise serious concerns about its compliance with civil rights law. Accordingly, we urge you to take a stand for your students and staff, your alumni, and Yale's legacy and fight this toxic, politicized enforcement action by the Trump Administration. We further request that you provide records and information about Yale's ongoing negotiations with the Trump Administration privately with our delegation.

We have all watched as the Trump Administration has engaged in an unprecedented attack on America's premier educational institutions while at the same time, decimating public education in this country. Some of these institutions have steadfastly resisted these attempts. Indeed, Harvard's ultimate decision to fight similar claims—even when faced with aggressive threats to its research funding demonstrates that rejecting such abusive government overreach is not only possible but sends an important signal to others that might be targeted.

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[1] Michael S. Schmidt, Alan Blinder, & Michael C. Bender, *Yale Seeks Trump Administration Deal as It Faces Sprawling Investigation*, N.Y. Times (June 26, 2026), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/26/us/politics/yale-trump-administration-admissions-race.html?eafs_enabled=false; Douglas Belkin, *Yale Faces Rising Pressure to Resist a Settlement With the Trump Administration*, Wall Street Journal (July 10, 2026), https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/yale-faces-rising-pressure-to-resist-a-settlement-with-the-trump-administration-1ca5f577?eafs_enabled=false; Aria Lynn-Skov, & Gemard Guery, *Yale offers Trump administration second proposal after first is rejected,* Yale Daily News (July 10, 2026) https://yaledailynews.com/articles/yale-offers-trump-administration-second-proposal-after-first-is-rejected.

[2] Michael S. Schmidt, Alan Blinder, & Michael C. Bender, *Yale Seeks Trump Administration Deal as It Faces Sprawling Investigation*, N.Y. Times (June 26, 2026), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/26/us/politics/yale-trump-administration-admissions-race.html?eafs_enabled=false; Douglas Belkin, *Yale Faces Rising Pressure to Resist a Settlement With the Trump Administration*, Wall Street Journal (July 10, 2026), https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/yale-faces-rising-pressure-to-resist-a-settlement-with-the-trump-administration-1ca5f577?eafs_enabled=false.

Acquiescing to a bully does not make that bully go away, it encourages them to come back for more and to expand their overreach to weaker targets. Yale's settlement here would show the Trump Administration that its tactics are working. It would also send the wrong message to Yale's alumni, its students, and the world. What we admire about Yale is exemplified by its own motto, "Lux et Veritas," light and truth. That is why we urge Yale, in the strongest possible terms, to consider the lasting consequences of a decision not rooted in light and truth.

Additionally, and to shed light on the troubling actions of the Trump Administration that has led to this point, we request records and information regarding the University's interactions with the Administration since January 20, 2025, regarding Title VI compliance and any recent or ongoing negotiations. This information will be useful to understand the scope of government overreach by this Administration and as we consider potential reforms to Title VI and federal higher education grants and programs.

1. All records[3] referring or relating to any proposed settlement agreement between Yale and any federal agency; including but not limited to all settlement agreement proposals and supporting memoranda.

2. All communications,[4] between Yale and any federal agency (including the Department of Justice and the Department of Education and Department of Justice) concerning compliance with Title VI and/or the possibility of revocation of federal funds from Yale.

3. Has Yale been asked, formally or informally by the Trump Administration, to modify its policies or practices related to admissions, faculty hiring, academic programs, and any program relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion? Please describe the nature of those requests including:

    a. Were any of these requested changes framed as conditions for avoiding investigation, enforcement action, litigation, or loss of federal funding?
    b. Did any federal officials reference potential financial penalties, settlement amounts, or other consequences in connection with these discussions?

4. Has Yale preemptively made any commitments, policy changes, or personnel decisions, that were made in anticipation of an investigation by the Administration—before

[3] For purposes of this request, "records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), direct messages, chats, calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

[4] For purposes of this request, "communications" include any records, as defined above, transmitted in any way between two or more individuals or entities.

discussion began—or directly in response to the Administration's demands?

5. Has the Trump Administration communicated a desire for a settlement agreement, or any consequence for declining to reach such an agreement? Please describe any such statements, who made them, when they were made, and in what form.

6. Has the Trump Administration given any insight as to the consequences of a failure to reach a settlement?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress