



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

1350 EUCLID AVENUE, SUITE 325
CLEVELAND, OH 44115-1812

REGION XV
MICHIGAN
OHIO

August 19, 2024

Via e-mail only to [REDACTED]

Mark J. Perry, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow, *Do No Harm*

[REDACTED]

Re: OCR Docket No. 15-23-2056

Dear Dr. Perry:

On January 9, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received the complaint that you re-filed against the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine' (the Medical School). You alleged that the Medical School discriminated against individuals on the basis of race, color, and national origin because it only offered the Underrepresented in Medicine Visiting Elective Scholarship Program (the program) to individuals from an underrepresented minority background who identify as African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.

OCR is closing your complaint for the reasons explained below.

Section 110(n) of OCR's *Case Processing Manual* provides that OCR may close or dismiss an allegation if OCR determines that the allegation is moot or unripe.

During the investigation, the Medical School notified OCR that it discontinued the program. The Medical School further confirmed that it removed promotional material regarding the program from its website. OCR reviewed the Medical School's website and did not find any information about the program that indicated it is active or that the Medical School plans to continue the program. In addition, the investigation did not uncover evidence of a specific individual who was harmed with respect to this program.

Accordingly, OCR is closing the complaint as moot as of the date of this letter.

¹ OCR's notification letter erroneously identified Western Michigan University as the subject of this complaint. However, the Underrepresented in Medicine Visiting Elective Scholarship Program is a program of Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (the Medical School), not Western Michigan University (the University). OCR was notified that, although affiliates, the Medical School and the University are separate entities.

This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR case. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public. Individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information, that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions about this letter, you may contact me by telephone at (216) [REDACTED] or by e-mail at [REDACTED]@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel J. McDonald
Team Leader