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U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Civil Rights  
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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to file a complaint against Washington DC Mayor Vincent C. Gray who through Washington DC's "Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007" is given the power to "govern the Public Schools in the District of Columbia." Since 2007 (after the establishment of Mayoral Control) 28 schools have been closed. The majority of these school closures were located in Wards of the City with 78-98% African-American residents (Wards 4, 5, 7 and 8). . Most were in heavily minority neighborhoods. Of the 6,300 students in these schools, only 15 were white, while 99% were African-American or Hispanic.

Currently Mayor Gray has stated publically that we need to close more schools. His administration commissioned a study by the IFF (Illinois Facilities Fund) that is recommending the closure/turnover to charter schools of 36 DCPS schools, once again in Wards with a high percentage of African American residents (Wards 5, 7 and 8). These closures would disrupt the schooling of almost 13,000 students, of whom 90 would be white. Ninety-nine percent would be African-American or Hispanic. Moreover, almost all the schools were subjects of the previous closings. In other words, they enroll students previously enrolled in other schools that were closed, subjecting them to the disruption of closing twice over.

Since 2007 DCPS school closures in Washington DC have had no impact in bettering the educational outcomes of those directly affected, almost exclusively minority group students (DCPS schools have a population of 72% African American and 14% Hispanic students). The 2011 [National Assessment of Educational Progress](#) shows that the achievement gap between black and white students in Washington is among the largest in the country, and it has not changed since 2007. Fourth-grade math scores are a prime example of the gap. Black students in DCPS scored an average of 212 points; white students scored 272, a 60-point difference, up from 55 points in 2007, and twice the national average. The percentage of African-American students scoring proficient or above ranges, depending on the test, from 9%-12%.

I, hereby request that under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the United States Department of Justice bring a legal action to stop Mayor Vincent C. Gray from closing more DCPS (DC Public Schools) schools which disproportionately affect African American and Hispanic students and residents. In addition, I join with students and parents to call for an investigation into the discriminatory impact of past closures.

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