

January 12, 2017

Sen. Roy Blunt	Sen. David Perdue
Sen. Richard Burr	Sen. Rob Portman
Sen. Bill Cassidy	Sen. Mike Rounds
Sen. Tom Cotton	Sen. Marco Rubio
Sen. Steve Daines	Sen. Tim Scott
Sen. Cory Gardner	Sen. Dan Sullivan
Sen. Chuck Grassley	Sen. John Thune
Sen. Ron Johnson	Sen. Thom Tillis
Sen. John McCain	Sen. Pat Toomey
Sen. Mitch McConnell	Sen. Todd Young
Sen. Lisa Murkowski	

Dear Senators,

We are calling on you, recipients of campaign contributions from Betsy DeVos, to recuse yourself from voting on President-elect Donald Trump's nomination of Ms. DeVos to serve as Secretary of Education. As a body entrusted with vetting this nominee and examining her views on public policy, the Senate must uphold the strongest ethical standards throughout the nomination process. As past recipients of contributions from DeVos, you must recuse yourself from her nomination, or risk imperiling the legitimacy of DeVos's confirmation.

Ms. DeVos once wrote, "I have decided to stop taking offense at the suggestion that we are buying influence. Now I simply concede the point. They are right. We do expect something in return."

Betsy DeVos and her family have made nearly \$1 million in campaign contributions to 21 U.S. Senators who will have the opportunity to consider her nomination. In addition to these individual campaign contributions, DeVos and her family contributed \$2.25 million during the fall campaign to the Senate Leadership Fund, and have also given \$900,000 to the National Republican Senatorial Committee. That comes out to a [\\$4 million bid](#) to influence you.

Of special concern is the fact that, in just the last two election cycles, DeVos and her family have given a quarter-million dollars in contributions to five members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP), who are tasked with vetting her nomination and will hold her confirmation hearing Wednesday. Sen. Bill Cassidy received \$70,000, Sen. Tim Scott and Sen. Todd Young have each received close to \$50,000, and Sens. Richard Burr and Lisa Murkowski each received about \$43,000.

The plentiful contributions to many senators, combined with Ms. DeVos' past statements, make it appear that DeVos expects your vote in exchange for her past financial support. This kind of pay-to-play,

whether explicit or implied, cannot stand in the U.S. Senate. No one among the 21 senators to whom Ms. DeVos has contributed can make an unbiased decision about whether she is well-suited to protect the interests of America's 56 million schoolchildren.

DeVos's confirmation process must include fair and thorough evaluation of her merits by participating senators. As a past recipient of campaign contributions from Ms. DeVos, this cannot be achieved unless you recuse yourself from this process. We urge you to do so.

Donations from Betsy DeVos and family to Senators in the 115th Congress

Blunt, Roy	\$33,100	
Burr, Richard	\$43,200	*HELP Committee Member
Cassidy, Bill	\$70,200	*HELP Committee Member
Cotton, Tom	\$26,000	
Daines, Steve	\$46,800	
Gardner, Cory	\$49,800	
Grassley, Chuck	\$21,600	
Johnson, Ron	\$48,600	
McCain, John	\$50,600	
McConnell, Mitch	\$36,400	
Murkowski, Lisa	\$43,200	*HELP Committee Member
Perdue, David	\$23,400	
Portman, Rob	\$51,000	
Rounds, Mike	\$46,800	
Rubio, Marco	\$98,300	
Scott, Tim	\$49,200	*HELP Committee Member
Sullivan, Dan	\$23,400	
Thune, John	\$17,500	
Tillis, Thom	\$70,200	
Toomey, Pat	\$60,050	
Young, Todd	\$48,600	*HELP Committee Member
Total	\$957,950	
HELP Total	\$254,400	

Sincerely,

Generation Progress
Higher Ed, Not Debt
Student Debt Crisis
One Wisconsin Now
Campaign for America's Future
CT Citizen Action Group

Education Opportunity Network
Public Higher Education Network
Democracy Matters
Public Citizen
The Rootstrikers Project, Demand Progress
Consumer Action
Franciscan Action Network
Center for Biological Diversity
Every Voice
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign
Family Equality Council
End Citizens United
Food & Water Watch
US Student Association
National Center for Transgender Equality
Feminist Majority Foundation
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
National Alliance of Black School Educators
SEIU's Faculty Forward
Americans for Democratic Action
Money Out Voters In