

**Open Letter to the U.S. Senate HELP Committee:  
Concerns Regarding the Nomination of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education**

January 9, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, and Members of the U.S. Senate HELP Committee:

While some of us have sent individual letters on this nomination, the undersigned education organizations—representing a range of perspectives and key stakeholders, including teachers, principals, parents, and civil rights advocates—write to express our strong concerns regarding the nomination of Betsy DeVos for U.S. Secretary of Education.

Over the course of her career as a major campaign contributor, soft money donor, and lobbyist, DeVos has used her considerable wealth to influence legislation and the outcomes of elections to advance policies that have undermined public education and proved harmful to many of our most vulnerable students.

While what we know about DeVos' record thus far is deeply troubling, there remain many critical issues affecting students and schools on which no record exists. As such, we urge all members of the U.S. Senate HELP Committee to make their concerns about her nomination and possible confirmation for U.S. Secretary of Education known.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association  
American Association of University Women  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Humanist Association  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Inquiry  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues  
Council of Administrators of Special Education

Democrats for Education Reform  
Demos  
Educators 4 Excellence  
Educators Rising  
Every Voice  
Family Equality Council  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
GLSEN  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Education Association  
National Parent Teacher Association  
National Rural Education Association  
School Social Work Association of America  
Stand for Children  
TESOL International Association