

17 January 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Nomination of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of the Department of Education

Dear Chairman Lamar Alexander and Ranking Member Patty Murray:

On behalf of more than 3.2 million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I write to urge the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to swiftly take up the nomination of Betsy DeVos to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Education. Ms. DeVos has a long-established track record of pursuing educational reforms that prioritize educational outcomes for our nation's children.

Ms. DeVos has consistently worked to advance school choice policies in her home state of Michigan and across the country. Her efforts have empowered countless students and their parents to select the schools and instructional methods that work best for them. Her support of voucher and tax credit scholarship programs has ensured that many children from low-income and working class families have access to the same opportunities as students whose parents can afford to put their children in private school or move to a higher quality school district.

A Department of Education led by Ms. DeVos presents opportunities to advance responsible and effective education policy. Under her leadership, the agency can act to restore control and flexibility to the states, allowing them to enact the education policies that work best in each community. Ms. DeVos can lead the Department of Education in working closely with the states to establish a shared vision for modernizing education policies. The agency can prioritize meeting the educational needs and preferences of individual students and ensuring that parents and students have access to a rich diversity of educational options, rather than a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach.

As Chairman and Ranking Member of the committee, you have prioritized policies that improve educational opportunities for students. Critical to that mission is fully functioning and capable leadership at the Department of Education, for which Ms. DeVos is well qualified. We urge an immediate hearing on the nominee and full and fair consideration on the Senate floor as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.