

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2017

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

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The confirmation of Betsy DeVos is critically important to ensuring our nation's children are provided with the best education. Betsy DeVos has dedicated her life to expanding opportunities for children to attend the best schools and ensuring that parents have maximum choice when choosing those educations. It is important to thoroughly examine her record, her qualifications, and her character.

By all accounts, Betsy DeVos is a well-respected person with strong roots in, and contributions to, her Western Michigan community. Her faith and her dedication to our country are not in question. She has a national reputation for being fair, intelligent, kind, persistent, tough, and compassionate. These are the virtues we all admire. These are the character traits we would all like to instill in our children.

It is clear that Mrs. DeVos has advocated for ending the status quo and pushing education policy forward, which has generated substantial political push back to her nomination. We, however, view her efforts to break up the bureaucracy as commendable. Her efforts to provide hard-working families in Michigan with the flexibility to send their children to the schools of their choice are admirable.

Be it homeschool, private school, charter school, public school, or virtual school, parents should have the power to do what is best for their kids. Confining young minds to schools that might not be providing them the highest quality education cannot be our position. Removing power from bureaucrats and placing it in the hands of parents should be a goal on both sides of the aisle. This will ensure students are not trapped in failing schools by virtue of their zip codes.

As Republican Members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, we submit that Education Secretary-designate DeVos should be confirmed at the earliest possible date so she can go to work on behalf of our students and parents.



Dave Brat
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman
Committee on Education and the Workforce

Congress of the United States

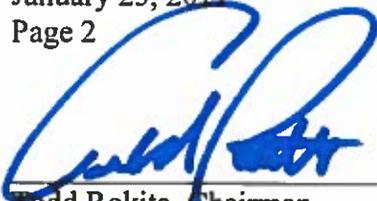
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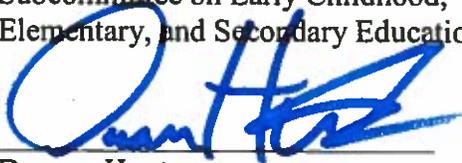
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Todd Rokita, Chairman
Subcommittee on Early Childhood,
Elementary, and Secondary Education



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



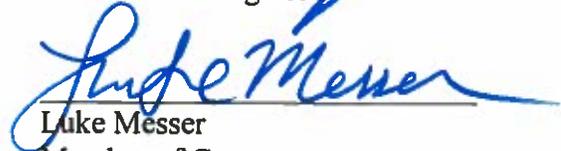
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader
United States Senate