



1101 15th Street, NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
T. 202.289.2700
F. 202.289.4009
www.publiccharters.org

January 4, 2017

Senator Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Health, Education Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Health, Education Labor and Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, I am writing to support the nomination of Betsy DeVos to serve as the U.S. Secretary of Education. I urge the Committee to confirm her nomination.

Mrs. DeVos has been a dedicated champion for improving education for all students. As a result of her work with organizations dedicated to education reform, countless children throughout America are now able to access a higher quality education. As Secretary of Education we expect that her leadership will guide the Administration's budget and policies toward increased academic outcomes for all of our nation's students

Moreover, her extensive record of empowering families with school choice demonstrates that she will continue to be a strong advocate for charter public schools, including their students, parents and teachers. Charter schools are granted operational autonomy in exchange for meeting specific accountability goals: if goals are not met, the charter school is no longer permitted to remain open. As supporters of autonomy and accountability, we strongly supported the changes made in the recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act through the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. States and school districts have significant new flexibility in the use of federal funds, while being held to key accountability requirements that ensure all students will meet high standards. Charter public schools are a critical part of public education and fit squarely within the framework established by Congress in ESSA. We believe that Mrs. DeVos will be a capable steward of its implementation.

We look forward to working with Mrs. DeVos to strengthen public education in America, implement ESSA and to expand the number of high-quality charter schools. I urge the Committee to support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Rees".

Nina Rees
President and CEO