



January 31, 2017

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Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
378 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Schumer & Gillibrand:

On behalf of The New York State Council of School Superintendents, I want to thank you for your commitment to oppose the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education. Two months ago I raised concerns to you regarding the nominee and her view of public education. I asked you to oppose her nomination if she failed to give you assurances that she would work to strengthen public education and not divest public school of their resources in favor of private interests.

During her confirmation hearing, it became abundantly clear that Ms. DeVos not only does not have a commitment to public education, but lacks the requisite educational expertise to guide this critical agency. From her poor understanding of federal special education statutes to her troubling view on charter school accountability, or lack thereof, she did nothing to assuage our concerns.

I commend your decision to oppose this nominee. I hope that you can find the few republican partners necessary to reject Ms. DeVos and that in the future the President will heed the advice of both of you before nominating a secretary to this important position.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Dedrick, Ed. D.  
Executive Director

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