



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

January 26, 2017

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

Dear Senator Alexander,

I am an enthusiastic supporter of Betsy DeVos and I am writing to urge the U.S. Senate to confirm her to be the next U.S. Secretary of Education.

With less than 40 percent of high school graduates being college or workforce ready, our K-12 schools are in dire need of reform. These changes should come from the state and local level, not dictated from Washington, D.C. through a series of one-size-fits-all mandates that have failed in the past.

Betsy DeVos is a strong champion for state and local control of education. She is fully committed to curtailing the federal overreach into our classrooms and freeing the hands of governors, state lawmakers and local school boards to experiment with innovative reforms to improve student learning.

As a governor of a state with various rural counties, I am excited about the opportunity to work with Mrs. DeVos and President Trump to expand local control of education. The challenges of educating children in Coos County in the North Country of my state are different than in Hillsborough County near the Massachusetts' state line. States need the flexibility to respond to the different challenges facing our different communities.

Mrs. DeVos is also a forceful advocate for giving parents a greater voice in how and where their children are educated. In fact, she is among the most successful advocates for school choice in America, having worked tirelessly to expand opportunities for school children.

I am particularly impressed by Mrs. DeVos' commitment to help our most vulnerable students. She has fought valiantly for the rights of children with developmental disabilities, ensuring that they can access good schools that respond to their unique challenges.

Betsy DeVos has the right vision for education reform. She has a proven record of success over a three-decade period in fighting for the right kind of solutions, and she has the leadership skills necessary to stand up to the teachers' unions and finally put the interests of parents and students first. America's parents and school children need a leader like Betsy DeVos, and I am hopeful she will be confirmed quickly.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor