



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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CITY COUNCIL

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LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Councilmember

January 17, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate

Via Fax: (202) 224-6510

CONCERNS OVER THE NOMINATION OF BETSY DeVOS AS U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

I write to you on behalf of the City Council of the City of West Hollywood and the West Hollywood community to express our serious concerns over the nomination of Betsy DeVos as U.S. Secretary of Education.

Our City Council has been entrusted by our community members to preserve the City's core values and principles of equality, respect and support for people.

The City shares the concerns expressed in a letter signed by 38 national organizations representing a broad spectrum of education stakeholders over Ms. DeVos and her use of her personal wealth to influence legislation and the outcomes of elections to advance policies that have undermined public education, which proved harmful to many of our most vulnerable students.

Ms. DeVos' ideology and known past advocacy efforts in favor of funding private charters by siphoning taxpayers' dollars from public schools has the potential to undermine the nation's hard-won progress in strengthening public education.

Furthermore, Ms. DeVos has a long track record of strong opposition to marriage equality, which raises concerns for people in West Hollywood about how her personal religious beliefs will impact her decision making regarding minority groups and LGBT students.





The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chair
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
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As you know, West Hollywood has actively advocated for marriage equality. Our City defends people's right to marry whom they love, and we are home to thousands of LGBT individuals and families.

The West Hollywood City Council respectfully calls on you and your colleagues to properly and carefully weigh in on Ms. DeVos' qualifications and background.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Lauren Meister,
MAYOR

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
Hon. Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator (CA)
Hon. Adam Schiff, U.S. Representative, CA-28th District
Members of the California Congressional Delegation
Hon. Jerry Brown
Hon. Richard Bloom, AD-50
Hon. Ben Allen, SD-26
Honorable members of the West Hollywood City Council

