

January 11, 2017

Hon. Lamar Alexander, Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor & Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor
& Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The Hispanic Leadership Fund is, a non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening working families by promoting common-sense public policy solutions that foster individual liberty, opportunity, and prosperity. As president of HLF, I write to express our support for Mrs. Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education.

Mrs. DeVos has a record of advocating for policies that empower parents to select the best learning environment for their children, regardless of income. She's the founder of two well-known national education reform organizations and helped lead the way on opening charter schools in her home state of Michigan.

Since Mrs. DeVos began her efforts in Michigan, students in Detroit charter schools are performing better than those in public schools in every subject tested by the state. Recent studies by Stanford University show that students in Detroit charters are showing higher academic development, gaining an extra two months' learning in math and reading per year compared those students in city public schools. Also, a recent study by McKinsey & Co. shows that school success does not depend on spending and classroom size. Instead, quality teachers are most important.

Today, millions of students are attending schools that fail to meet their educational needs. Since the 1970s, the cost per student spending in K-12 public schools has more than tripled, while academic results have weakened. Public school enrollment has increased a modest 9 percent, while staff, including non-teaching staff, has increased 83 percent. Even with the vast investment, the performance of our kids has shown almost no improvement.

HLF strongly supports the urgently needed educational reforms that Mrs. DeVos would bring to the Department of Education. We respectfully urge the committee to confirm Betsy DeVos without delay.

Sincerely,



Mario H. Lopez

President