

MICHAEL P. FARRIS, JD, LL.M.  
CHAIRMAN (WA, DC)

J. MICHAEL SMITH, ESQ.  
PRESIDENT (CA, DC, VA)

JAMES R. MASON III, ESQ.  
VICE PRESIDENT (OR, DC)

SCOTT A. WOODRUFF, ESQ.  
SENIOR COUNSEL (VA, MO)

DARREN A. JONES, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY (CA, DC)

THOMAS J. SCHMIDT, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY (CA)

# HSLDA<sup>®</sup>

ADVOCATES FOR HOMESCHOOLING

MICHAEL P. DONNELLY, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY (MA, NH, WV, DC)

WILLIAM A. ESTRADA, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY (CA)

PETER K. KAMAKAWIWOOLE, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY (MO, VA)

DANIEL T. BEASLEY, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY (CA, WI)

MARY E. SCHOFIELD, ESQ.  
OF COUNSEL (CA)

December 12, 2016

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education

Dear Senator,

The Home School Legal Defense Association is a national organization whose mission is to protect the constitutional right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children. We represent the interests of thousands of homeschooling families across the country.

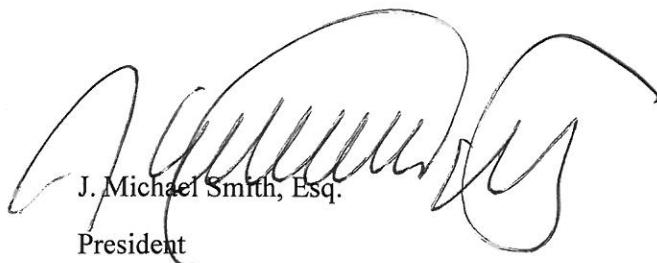
We write to you today to urge you to support Betsy DeVos's nomination for Secretary of Education. Betsy DeVos is very qualified, having worked in the field of education for 28 years and having served on the boards of multiple organizations working to advance education in America.

Among the many new and innovative ideas she brings to the Department of Education is a positive view of alternative forms of education, especially homeschooling. She acknowledges the constitutional right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children. This means parents have the responsibility to determine what form of education will best meet the needs of each individual child.

Betsy DeVos is dedicated to building an education system that will effectively support and facilitate the education of all students everywhere, no matter their background, interests, or personal needs. More than this, she has a vision to build a system in which those in the driver's seat are the ones most capable of determining what will be effective; namely every child's parents.

It is because of this exemplary and laudable vision, and her years of work improving education in our nation, that we urge you to support Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Smith, Esq.  
President

HOME SCHOOL LEGAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL OFFICE ■ ONE PATRICK HENRY CIRCLE ■ PURCELLVILLE, VA 20132 ■ 540-338-5600 ■ 540-338-1952 FAX  
CAPITOL HILL OFFICE ■ 119 C STREET, S.E. ■ WASHINGTON, DC 20003