

January 12, 2017

Sen. Roy Blunt	Sen. David Perdue
Sen. Richard Burr	Sen. Rob Portman
Sen. Bill Cassidy	Sen. Mike Rounds
Sen. Tom Cotton	Sen. Marco Rubio
Sen. Steve Daines	Sen. Tim Scott
Sen. Cory Gardner	Sen. Dan Sullivan
Sen. Chuck Grassley	Sen. John Thune
Sen. Ron Johnson	Sen. Thom Tillis
Sen. John McCain	Sen. Pat Toomey
Sen. Mitch McConnell	Sen. Todd Young
Sen. Lisa Murkowski	

Dear Senators,

We are calling on you, recipients of campaign contributions from Betsy DeVos, to recuse yourself from voting on President-elect Donald Trump's nomination of Ms. DeVos to serve as Secretary of Education. As a body entrusted with vetting this nominee and examining her views on public policy, the Senate must uphold the strongest ethical standards throughout the nomination process. As past recipients of contributions from DeVos, you must recuse yourself from her nomination, or risk imperiling the legitimacy of DeVos's confirmation.

Ms. DeVos once wrote, "I have decided to stop taking offense at the suggestion that we are buying influence. Now I simply concede the point. They are right. We do expect something in return."

Betsy DeVos and her family have made nearly \$1 million in campaign contributions to 21 U.S. Senators who will have the opportunity to consider her nomination. In addition to these individual campaign contributions, DeVos and her family contributed \$2.25 million during the fall campaign to the Senate Leadership Fund, and have also given \$900,000 to the National Republican Senatorial Committee. That comes out to a [\\$4 million bid](#) to influence you.

Of special concern is the fact that, in just the last two election cycles, DeVos and her family have given a quarter-million dollars in contributions to five members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP), who are tasked with vetting her nomination and will hold her confirmation hearing Wednesday. Sen. Bill Cassidy received \$70,000, Sen. Tim Scott and Sen. Todd Young have each received close to \$50,000, and Sens. Richard Burr and Lisa Murkowski each received about \$43,000.

The plentiful contributions to many senators, combined with Ms. DeVos' past statements, make it appear that DeVos expects your vote in exchange for her past financial support. This kind of pay-to-play,

whether explicit or implied, cannot stand in the U.S. Senate. No one among the 21 senators to whom Ms. DeVos has contributed can make an unbiased decision about whether she is well-suited to protect the interests of America's 56 million schoolchildren.

DeVos's confirmation process must include fair and thorough evaluation of her merits by participating senators. As a past recipient of campaign contributions from Ms. DeVos, this cannot be achieved unless you recuse yourself from this process. We urge you to do so.

**Donations from Betsy DeVos and family to Senators in the 115th Congress**

Blunt, Roy	\$33,100	
Burr, Richard	\$43,200	<b>*HELP Committee Member</b>
Cassidy, Bill	\$70,200	<b>*HELP Committee Member</b>
Cotton, Tom	\$26,000	
Daines, Steve	\$46,800	
Gardner, Cory	\$49,800	
Grassley, Chuck	\$21,600	
Johnson, Ron	\$48,600	
McCain, John	\$50,600	
McConnell, Mitch	\$36,400	
Murkowski, Lisa	\$43,200	<b>*HELP Committee Member</b>
Perdue, David	\$23,400	
Portman, Rob	\$51,000	
Rounds, Mike	\$46,800	
Rubio, Marco	\$98,300	
Scott, Tim	\$49,200	<b>*HELP Committee Member</b>
Sullivan, Dan	\$23,400	
Thune, John	\$17,500	
Tillis, Thom	\$70,200	
Toomey, Pat	\$60,050	
Young, Todd	\$48,600	<b>*HELP Committee Member</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$957,950</b>	
<b>HELP Total</b>	<b>\$254,400</b>	

Sincerely,

Generation Progress  
Higher Ed, Not Debt  
Student Debt Crisis  
One Wisconsin Now  
Campaign for America's Future  
CT Citizen Action Group

Education Opportunity Network  
Public Higher Education Network  
Democracy Matters  
Public Citizen  
The Rootstrikers Project, Demand Progress  
Consumer Action  
Franciscan Action Network  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Every Voice  
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign  
Family Equality Council  
End Citizens United  
Food & Water Watch  
US Student Association  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues  
National Alliance of Black School Educators  
SEIU's Faculty Forward  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Money Out Voters In