



1090 Vermont Avenue, NW | Suite 850
Washington, DC 20005

January 9, 2017

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

Chairman Alexander,

This week the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions will consider the nomination of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of the United States Department of Education. Log Cabin Republicans, the country's original and largest organization of LGBT conservatives and straight allies, strongly encourages her confirmation.

Ms. DeVos has been maligned in the media as an "anti-gay" activist—allegations directly stemming from her personal views on marriage (which are now immaterial in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's 2015 *Obergefell* ruling), and contributions from her family foundation (to which she was not a direct party).

Far from an "anti-gay" firebreather, Ms. DeVos actually has a history of working with and supporting gay individuals.

When Ms. DeVos' Senior Advisor Greg McNeilly was accosted by a Michigan State Senator who threatened to make his sexual orientation a matter of public record because of his opposition to a constitutional amendment banning marriage equality, Ms. DeVos put an end to the bullying and harassment (*Prominent Gay Republican Said DeVos Stood Up for Him, Detroit News, December 3, 2016*).

Furthermore, in 2013, Ms. DeVos called for the resignation of then-Republican National Committeeman Dave Agema for posting erroneous and vitriolic anti-gay statements online ("*Filthy homosexuals*": *Michigan GOP Leader Dave Agema's Facebook Post Sparks Furor, M Live, March 28, 2013*).

Ms. DeVos should be commended for proving that differences of opinion related to marriage equality do not equate to anti-gay animus. Log Cabin Republicans stands in support of her nomination for Secretary of Education, and encourages her swift confirmation.

Gregory T. Angelo
President

cc: H.E.L.P. Committee members