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## United States Senate

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION  
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Dear Mr. Pleacher,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the confirmation of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education. I appreciate you taking the time to write. It is an honor to serve you in the United States Senate and I hope you will continue to write with your thoughts and ideas on moving our country forward.

On February 7, 2017, with my support, the Senate voted to confirm Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education by a vote of 50-50. Vice President Mike Pence cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of Ms. DeVos. Ms. DeVos is a long-time advocate for education reform, and has served in leadership positions for many education-focused not-for-profit organizations. Article II of the Constitution requires that the President obtain the advice and consent of the Senate on Presidential appointees.

As a product of public schools myself, and a father with one child - soon to be three - in the public school system, I believe it is important to have someone leading the Department of Education who will fight for public schools. When I had the opportunity to meet Betsy DeVos personally, she pledged to me that she would be an advocate for public schools, teachers, and educational opportunity for all. The debate around her nomination has been a healthy exercise of our democracy, made all the more important because it involves our most precious possession, our children. As someone who believes education decisions should be left to parents and their children with policy driven locally, Congress will hold her accountable and I will work to ensure she lives up to the commitment she made to me.

The teachers in our lives play an outsized role as we grow into adults and throughout our adult life - and for good reason. They taught me that we must work together in common cause for a greater school, community, and nation. I look forward to the great work ahead of us not as parents divided, but as people committed, in spite of these differences, to building a stronger education for our children and grandchildren.

Again, thank you for contacting me, and do not hesitate to do so again when an issue is important to you.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner