



For Immediate Release

Record Number of Educators Oppose Betsy DeVos, Urge Senator Collins Do the Same

In record numbers, NEA members, which include 23,500 Maine educators, have engaged in the confirmation process for Betsy DeVos, Donald Trump's nominee for education secretary. DeVos lacks experience and preparedness and is a detractor, not an advocate, of public schools, which enroll most of America's students. More than [1 million NEA members and supporters](#) have emailed their senators, urging them to oppose the DeVos nomination and, just as importantly, Trump's agenda for public education. MEA members have contacted Senators Collins and King to oppose DeVos. While Senator King has publicly said he will oppose the nomination, Senator Collins has not, despite the views of thousands of Maine educators.

"The Maine Education Association's Board of Directors fully reviewed DeVos's views on public education, her academic background, and her employment history. Ultimately the Board, made up of teachers and support staff from around the state, unanimously voted to oppose the nomination. Billionaire DeVos, who never attended a public school nor enrolled her children, believes that public taxpayer money should be used for costs of sending children to private, religious, and corporate-run charter schools. The MEA is opposed to both a voucher system and underwriting schools, other than local community public schools, with taxpayer dollars," said Lois Kilby-Chesley, MEA President.

"Maine students and students across this country deserve better than Betsy DeVos. DeVos is highly unqualified, and would actually do harm to our nation's public schools. The Secretary of Education should be the nation's leading advocate for public schools and the students who attend them. That means the secretary's agenda must focus on ensuring that public schools have the resources to provide students with everything they need for success; Betsy DeVos simply doesn't make the cut," added Kilby-Chesley.