

May 24, 2017
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Dear Mr President:

I am very concerned by your proposed education budget. This country has a very good public education system. Universal education has been a great societal equalizer, making the American dream possible. It does, however, suffer from funding disparities. This has always been a problem due to the extremely local control for the system. While there are many advantages to local control, with schools responding better to local needs and keeping the communities engaged it does lead to have and have not school districts. State and federal governments have found various ways to try to even things out and this is a major function of the federal Education Department. Your budget, as defended today by Secretary DeVos would be very damaging. The focus on vouchers would take even more resources from the most needy districts. This will reinforce a cycle of poverty and create a country ruled more by class than merit.

Please assure me that you will focus on improving rather than abandoning the weakest public schools.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our universal education.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson