

**A Resolution to Oppose the Nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of the U.S.  
Department of Education**

Mikayla Bodey (for herself, Samer Abusway, Tony Buss, Sophie Chang, Nick Prayner, Melissa Chime, and Yousef Yacoub) introduced the following resolution to the floor of the General Assembly.

\* \* \*

**Whereas** the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

**Whereas** President Donald J. Trump has nominated Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education to be confirmed by the United States (U.S.) Senate next week, and

**Whereas** DeVos has no experience as an educator in any academic institution,<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas** DeVos supports allowing firearms in institutions of learning, a position that Undergraduate Student Government has long opposed,<sup>2</sup> and

**Whereas** during her confirmation hearing on January 17, 2017, DeVos declined to agree to uphold the 2011 Title IX guidance for universities when addressing cases of sexual assault, calling to question her dedication to investigating cases of campus sexual assault and the work of the It's On Us campaign,<sup>3</sup> and

**Whereas** DeVos indicated in her confirmation hearing that she has no intention of working with Senate Democrats to make public higher education free or more accessible for low-income students,<sup>4,5</sup> and

**Whereas** when DeVos was asked what she would do to address college affordability, she simply offered that students should select more affordable forms of postsecondary education, including career colleges, trade and vocational schools, and community colleges,<sup>6</sup> and

**Whereas** DeVos displayed limited understanding of student loan debt levels, casting doubt on

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.c-span.org/video/?421224-1/education-secretary-nominee-betsy-devos-testifies-confirmation-hearing&live>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/01/17/510274817/watch-live-betsy-devos-secretary-of-education-confirmation-hearing>

<sup>3</sup>[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/01/18/under-devos-education-department-likely-to-make-significant-shift-on-sexual-assault/?utm\\_term=.8d436b16e7a5](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/01/18/under-devos-education-department-likely-to-make-significant-shift-on-sexual-assault/?utm_term=.8d436b16e7a5)

<sup>4</sup><https://www.c-span.org/video/?421224-1/education-secretary-nominee-betsy-devos-testifies-confirmation-hearing&live>

<sup>5</sup>[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/01/18/what-we-learned-about-betsy-devos-higher-education-positions-not-much/?utm\\_term=.5384d9be35a9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/01/18/what-we-learned-about-betsy-devos-higher-education-positions-not-much/?utm_term=.5384d9be35a9)

<sup>6</sup><http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Senate-Panel-Questions-DeVos-in-Contentious-Confirmation-Hearing-for-Education-Secretary.aspx>

37 her understanding of the state of financing higher education in the United States,<sup>7</sup> and  
38  
39 **Whereas** experts, including Dr. Michelle Asha Cooper, president of the Institute for Higher  
40 Education Policy of Washington, D.C., question DeVos' dedication to diversity in higher  
41 education, citing her past conflicting political donations,<sup>8</sup> and  
42  
43 **Whereas** Lauren Asher, president of The Institute for College Access and Success, suggests that  
44 DeVos has not offered or made known her position on key issues in higher education of access,  
45 debt, affordability, and accountability,<sup>9</sup> and  
46  
47 **Whereas** during her confirmation hearing, DeVos stated that she believed individual states had  
48 the right to decide whether to enforce The Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and had  
49 no working knowledge of the act to base that opinion,<sup>10</sup> and  
50  
51 **Whereas** the National Education Association,<sup>11</sup> Students For Education Reform,<sup>12</sup> and the  
52 United States Student Association<sup>13</sup> have voiced opposition to DeVos' nomination, and  
53  
54 **Whereas** it is unclear how DeVos' numerous corporate conflicts will impede her ability to make  
55 decisions in the best interest of public institutions of higher education,<sup>14</sup> and  
56  
57 **Whereas** DeVos has done little to clarify her positions on affordability in higher education, and  
58  
59 **Whereas** DeVos has not presented significant plans to address college affordability that align  
60 with the Undergraduate Student Government's policy platform for college affordability; and  
61  
62 **Therefore Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) at The Ohio  
63 State University rejects the appointment of Betsy DeVos to lead the U.S. Department of  
64 Education, and  
65  
66 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that USG encourages U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and U.S. Senator  
67 Rob Portman to vote no on DeVos' confirmation.  
68  
69

70 Floor Vote: Aye-23 Nay-2 Abstain-7  
71  
72  
73

---

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> <http://diverseeducation.com/article/89868/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/01/17/509157827/5-things-to-look-for-in-betsy-devos-confirmation-hearings>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/01/17/betsy-devos-confused-about-federal-law-protecting-students-with-disabilities/?tid=a\\_inl&utm\\_term=.caef578db08c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/01/17/betsy-devos-confused-about-federal-law-protecting-students-with-disabilities/?tid=a_inl&utm_term=.caef578db08c)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.nea.org/home/69329.htm>

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.studentsresistingtrump.com/?utm\\_source=Members+and+Supporters&utm\\_campaign=e3c6afc221-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_01\\_25&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0551d22f49-e3c6afc221-345456073](http://www.studentsresistingtrump.com/?utm_source=Members+and+Supporters&utm_campaign=e3c6afc221-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_01_25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0551d22f49-e3c6afc221-345456073)

<sup>13</sup> <http://usstudents.org/blog/>

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/education/wp/2017/01/23/democrats-request-another-hearing-for-betsy-devos-trumps-education-pick-before-confirmation-vote/?tid=hybrid\\_collaborative\\_1\\_na&utm\\_term=.4b579deabbce](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/education/wp/2017/01/23/democrats-request-another-hearing-for-betsy-devos-trumps-education-pick-before-confirmation-vote/?tid=hybrid_collaborative_1_na&utm_term=.4b579deabbce)

74 Gerard C. Basalla  
75 \_\_\_\_\_  
76 Gerard Basalla  
77 President  
78  
79  
80 Date Adopted: 11/25/17

Danielle M. DiScala  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Danielle Di Scala  
Vice President  
  
Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_