

December 21, 2020

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos,

As the president of the non-partisan government watchdog group Accountable.US, I urge you to immediately retract [your comments](#) to Department of Education staff to “be the resistance” towards the incoming administration and to publicly commit to ceasing any activity between now and Inauguration Day that would obstruct President-elect Biden’s administration from implementing its agenda of prioritizing students, families and public education over corporations and special interests.

The Department of Education is facing a particularly challenging road ahead. In addition to working with public health officials to reopen schools for in-person learning in a safe manner, work must be done to undo your efforts to undermine public schools and prioritize corporations over students. During your time as secretary, you consistently [sided with](#) student loan corporations and for-profit institutions over students, even [defying a court order](#) to continue to deny relief to struggling student loan borrowers who had been defrauded by predatory for-profit colleges. Furthermore, the incoming administration has the daunting task of rebuilding the trust of agency career staff and the public that wilted during your tenure. You consistently demonized hardworking Department of Education staff, even [arguing the](#) department shouldn’t exist at all.

Your efforts have been fought tooth and nail by students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and consumer protection advocates. Those who have supported your agenda are often in the pocket of the corporations and special interest groups you helped while hurting students and student loan borrowers. It is time to stop standing with corporations and special interests and step aside to allow the Department of Education to once again work for students and families.

The controversies you faced as secretary were your own doing and a result of your efforts to undermine the Department of Education and everything it stands for. Your efforts to obstruct President-elect Biden’s administration are dangerous and frankly, unpatriotic. You must step aside and let the incoming administration clean up your mess without obstruction.

Sincerely,



Kyle Herrig  
President, Accountable.US