



Agudath
Israel
of America
אגודת ישראל באמריקה

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Dear Friends:

One of the highest priorities of the Torah community is the education of our children, and we firmly believe that one of the keys to educational excellence, in Jewish schools and in all American schools, is parental involvement. We are also of the view that there is no better way to encourage such involvement, and to ensure educational accountability, than to allow parents to choose the school that is best suited for their child -- whether public, private or religious. Therefore, Agudath Israel has been a prominent voice in the "school choice" movement.

Secretary of Education-designate Betsy DeVos shares this perspective. Over the many years that Agudath Israel has worked closely with Mrs. DeVos, we have known her to be a strong supporter and eloquent advocate for school choice programs throughout the country. She will support the choices of all parents, regardless of the setting in which they wish to educate their child. Her prospective appointment is very exciting to those seeking educational reform and provides hope to our families, and to all families, who seek greater educational opportunity and achievement for their children.

Today, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee recommended that the full Senate confirm Mrs. DeVos. Agudath Israel [provided a written statement](#) to the committee in support of her nomination and Rabbi A.D. Motzen, Agudath Israel's National Director of State Relations and a close associate of Mrs. DeVos, was invited to attend her confirmation hearing. There are those who, unfortunately, have expressed opposition to the idea of empowering parents through choice and have signaled their intent to undermine her appointment. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us, her supporters, to have our voices be heard even louder and clearer.

As the confirmation now goes to the full Senate, [please reach out to your U. S. Senators \(click here or go to \[https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm\]\(https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm\)\)](#) and respectfully urge them to endorse Mrs. DeVos for Secretary of Education. Emphasize that school choice is a fundamental need for so many Americans who want more options for their children and who - like families in our own community - struggle hard to provide the most appropriate education for their children.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Abba Cohen