



**Dean J. Trantalis**  
Mayor

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The Honorable Brian Campion  
Chair of the Vermont Senate Committee on Education  
Vermont State House  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

**RE: ZOIE SAUNDERS - LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Dear Sen. Campion:

I am writing to express my support for Zoie Saunders's confirmation as the Secretary of Education for the State of Vermont.

Having had the privilege of working with Zoie during her tenure as the City of Fort Lauderdale's inaugural Chief Education Officer, I can attest to her exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and steadfast commitment to enhancing educational outcomes for all students.

Zoie's initiatives significantly expanded learning opportunities for our residents, positively impacting the lives of thousands of children. During her tenure in Fort Lauderdale, Zoie spearheaded several efforts that significantly enhanced the educational landscape of our city. She expanded aviation training and facilitated greater access to post-secondary learning opportunities. Moreover, she implemented a comprehensive three-year summer enrichment program, serving 2,000 students, to mitigate learning loss experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under her leadership, Fort Lauderdale's education programs garnered recognition for their effectiveness from esteemed organizations such as the U.S. Department of Labor, National League of Cities, Florida Department of Education, and Broward County Public Schools. Additionally, she pioneered a listening campaign in collaboration with the Education Advisory Board to capture the community's educational priorities, demonstrating her commitment to inclusive and responsive governance.

Furthermore, Zoie's educational background from Harvard University and Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education and Human Development underscores her passion for advancing education and serving her community.

As Zoie transitions to this pivotal role, I am confident that she will bring the same level of dedication, expertise, and innovation to Vermont's education system. Her unwavering commitment to excellence and her proven track record of success make her eminently qualified to serve as Secretary of Education, and I have no doubt that she will make significant contributions to the advancement of education in Vermont.

Sincerely,

Dean J. Trantalis  
Mayor