

Dear Senate Education committee,

I'm writing as the parent of a public school student from Hancock to voice strong opposition to Zoie Saunders as Vermont's next Secretary of Education. I have serious concerns about the radical political ideology behind introducing a known charter school advocate to lead our public education system at such a precarious time.

Vermont's Agency of Education is in desperate need of a bold leader with strategic operational experience, but we also need one who advocates for the advancement of public schools, a cornerstone of Vermont's values. A business executive whose primary accomplishments involve closing schools and promoting charter school alternatives does not meet Vermont's goals. I echo the concerns of the VT-NEA, the VSA, the VBSA, and other educational leadership groups who have voiced skepticism.

Our school-aged children deserve the right to a quality public education, and our agency of education needs a bold leader with experience in our unique challenges around population sparsity, funding capacity, and accountability to taxpayers. I hope you'll vote "no" on this confirmation.

Thank you for reading,

Stacey Peters
Chair, Granville-Hancock Unified District Board of Directors