

MAJORITY MEMBERS:

GEORGE MILLER, CALIFORNIA, Chairman

DALE E. KILDEE, MICHIGAN, Vice Chairman  
 DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY  
 ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY  
 ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA  
 LYNN C. WOOLSEY, CALIFORNIA  
 RUBÉN HINOJOSA, TEXAS  
 CAROLYN MCCARTHY, NEW YORK  
 JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
 DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO  
 DAVID WU, OREGON  
 RUSH HOLT, NEW JERSEY  
 SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA  
 RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, ARIZONA  
 TIMOTHY H. BISHOP, NEW YORK  
 JOE SESTAK, PENNSYLVANIA  
 DAVID LOEBACK, IOWA  
 MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII  
 JASON ALTMIRE, PENNSYLVANIA  
 PHIL HARE, ILLINOIS  
 YVETTE D. CLARKE, NEW YORK  
 JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT  
 CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
 MARCIA L. FUDGE, OHIO  
 JARED POLIS, COLORADO  
 PAUL TONKO, NEW YORK  
 PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PUERTO RICO  
 GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,  
 N. MARIANA ISLANDS  
 DINA TITUS, NEVADA  
 JUDY CHU, CALIFORNIA



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR  
 U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MINORITY MEMBERS:

JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA,  
 Senior Republican Member  
 THOMAS E. PETRI, WISCONSIN  
 HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA  
 PETER HOEKSTRA, MICHIGAN  
 MICHAEL N. CASTLE, DELAWARE  
 MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA  
 VERNON J. EHLERS, MICHIGAN  
 JUDY BIGGERT, ILLINOIS  
 TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
 JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
 CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON  
 TOM PRICE, GEORGIA  
 ROB BISHOP, UTAH  
 BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY  
 BILL CASSIDY, LOUISIANA  
 TOM MCCLINTOCK, CALIFORNIA  
 DUNCAN D. HUNTER, CALIFORNIA  
 DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE  
 GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

October 16, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Duncan:


The individuals charged with operating and overseeing our nation's schools bear a tremendous responsibility. Our teachers and principals on the front lines and the public servants in the nation's capital have been entrusted with shaping and influencing the lives of the next generation. As a parent and a grandparent, I expect these individuals to demonstrate sound judgment and responsibility. As a policymaker, I have a duty to ensure those same qualifications are met. When a public servant has not demonstrated the requisite judgment and responsibility for the office, they must be held accountable. Accordingly, I request Kevin Jennings be removed from his position as Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Office of Safe and Drug Free-Schools.

The Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools administers, coordinates, and recommends policies to promote school safety, character education, and drug prevention. Sound judgment and a proven track record of promoting student safety must be demonstrated by the individual charged with keeping our children and our schools safe and drug free.

Of his own accord, Mr. Jennings has written and spoken openly about numerous incidents in his past that directly controvert the mission of the office he now heads. He has acknowledged a history of drug use as a student, and he has shared the details of an incident in which a minor student confided in him regarding a dangerous sexual encounter with an adult, which Mr. Jennings failed to report to law enforcement or the student's parents.

Although Mr. Jennings heads an office directly responsible for hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars and numerous federally governed programs, he was not subject to the rigorous vetting process of confirmation by the U.S. Senate. As such, it falls to you to ensure the head of the OSDFS demonstrates the judgment and responsibility imperative to successful execution of the office. Because Mr. Jennings has demonstrated neither, I am compelled to call on you to see to his swift removal from office.

Sincerely,

  
 John Kline

Senior Republican Member