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J. Randy Forbes
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October 21, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Constituents from across the Fourth District of Virginia have expressed to me their concerns with the appointment of Kevin Jennings as Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. I respectfully request that you remove Mr. Jennings from this position.

The Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools administers, coordinates, and recommends policy for improving the quality and excellence of programs and activities that are designed to prevent drug-use and violence in our nation's schools. The official placed in such a position should be promoting an agenda that can be endorsed by all parents, namely one of creating drug-free schools and safe learning environments for our Nation's children.

As a career advocate for homosexuality in America's schools and founder of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Mr. Jennings brings to his position an agenda that has no place in federal guidance on establishing drug-free and safe schools. Along with many of my constituents, I find it difficult to believe that an individual who has fiercely promoted the *Queering of Education* from outside the Department of Education, will not use his position to advance that same agenda within the Department, to the concern of millions of parents, teachers, and students.

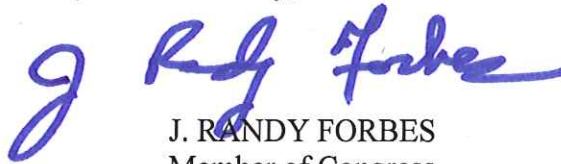
As 53 of my colleagues in the House recently expressed to you in a letter requesting the removal of Kevin Jennings from your Administration, there is also growing concern that Mr. Jennings lacks the appropriate ethical standards to serve as senior advisor to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Mr. Jennings' unrepentant use of illegal drugs and questionable judgment as a schoolteacher is clearly documented in his two memoirs, *Mama's Boy*, *Preacher's Son* and *One Teacher in Ten*. These instances and others give me pause, and I must question whether there is not another person in the

country more apt to serve as Assistant Deputy for the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools.

During your remarks at the announcement of Mr. Arne Duncan as Secretary of Education, you noted that the decisions we make about how to educate our children will shape our future for generations to come, and determine whether our children have the chance to fulfill their God-given potential. I agree with you, but I believe that this starts with the appointment of our leadership. We must demand from our leaders in Washington the same principles and morals which we seek to still in our children.

Preparing our children for their future is a sacred responsibility that I take very seriously. As you move forward with your education agenda, I hope you will take these thoughts into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Randy Forbes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress