



October 21, 2009

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

The American Federation of Teachers and a number of our affiliates have had the pleasure of working with Kevin Jennings since his days as the founder and executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). We have worked together over the years to make schools safe for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender.

In his role as assistant deputy secretary for the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, I am confident that Kevin will continue to promote safe and drug-free learning environments. I know he will play a leading role in helping students and administrators address important issues such as bullying, harassment and violence in our schools.

Given his outstanding career and his dedication to important issues that affect so many of our nation's students, we are saddened and disappointed that some with agendas having nothing to do with students or their safety would take any opportunity to denigrate Kevin, his work and those who have vested their trust in him. We commend you for your steadfast support of him and, more importantly, for standing up against a vitriolic witch hunt.

We look forward to working with Kevin on these and other issues of mutual concern in the near future.

Sincerely,

Randi Weingarten  
President

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American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
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