

February 21, 2017

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Betsy DeVoss
Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. DeVoss,

I am writing to you because of your passion to positively change the life of a child through education. 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys are victims of child sexual abuse in the United States. The actual number is most likely higher because many incidents go unreported. 90% of victims were sexually assaulted by someone they knew well—A step-parent, relative, family friend or caretaker.

Sadly, many of these victims go unnoticed in schools across our nation because teachers and school administrators are not properly trained on how to spot a victim of child sexual abuse.

A curriculum to teach children critical personal safety information in a age appropriate way called, “Safer, Smarter Kids” was developed by Senator Lauren Book of Florida, (M.S. Ed) with a team of educators and psychologists. Effectiveness testing has showed a 77% gain in children’s knowledge of critical personal safety information after completing the program.

Because child sexual abuse is preventable through education and awareness, this in-school curriculum can teach children, teachers and parents the necessary tools to keep children safe and do much to prevent child sexual abuse through awareness and education and help survivors heal with guidance and support.

As Secretary of Education I pray that you will work to implement this curriculum in schools across the country to better protect our children.

For more information on this curriculum you can visit:
<https://safersmarterkids.org/teachers/curriculum/>

Sincerely,

Jonah Reuben