

DeVos Appointment Devastating to the Special Needs Community

Autism education expert explains why DeVos confirmation spells trouble for children and young adults with special needs

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Top Autism Education Expert Explains why DeVos Confirmation Spells Trouble for U.S. Children and Young Adults with Special Needs

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The appointment of DeVos is devastating to the special needs community, Joanne Lara, executive director, Autism Works Now!”

Joanne Lara, Autism Works Now!

Los Angeles, California (Feb. 8, 2017) – [Joanne Lara](#), one of the country's top providers of vocational training for young adults on the autism spectrum, has gone from serving on Hillary Clinton's Disability Employment Task Force to lamenting the extent to which Betsy DeVos, as Secretary of Education, will undermine progress already made in educating those on the autism spectrum.

Lara, executive director of L.A.-based nonprofit [Autism Works Now!](#) is an expert in the field of special education with more than 20 years of experience teaching students with

moderate/severe autism. Autism Works Now! is bridging the gap for young adults with autism and related disabilities as they transition from high school into adulthood, helping these individuals with vocational skills to find meaningful employment.

"The appointment of DeVos is devastating to the special needs community," Lara says. "We have made tremendous progress in special education in this country these last 41 years, and I'm proud to call myself an educator. But we must keep pushing our representatives to uphold IDEA (the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), an education lifeline that our new Education Secretary seemed unfamiliar with."

Lara is located in Los Angeles and is available to interview immediately. With credentials including a Masters in Special Education and an Advanced Graduate ABA Certificate, Lara also serves as a Core Adjunct Faculty Member at National University and works with the Los Angeles Unified School District public school system.

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About Autism Works Now!

Autism Works Now! provides expressive movement therapy and workplace readiness skills resulting in meaningful, dignified employment for individuals with autism and related disorders. For more information about Autism Works Now! visit www.autismworksnow.org and follow us on social: [FB.com/autismworksus](https://www.facebook.com/autismworksus) and [Twitter.com/autismworksnow](https://twitter.com/autismworksnow)

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Joanne Lara, executive director of Autism Works Now!

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