

WASHINGTON (October 16) - Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) is calling on President Obama to fire "safe school czar" Kevin Jennings.

Bachus is one of 53 Republican Members of Congress who wrote a letter to the President raising "serious issues" with the writings and qualifications of Jennings, who was appointed to head the Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools.

"Everyone that deals with the education of the most vulnerable must be a positive role model. Our children are not blessed with the wisdom to discern or reject. Children presume the adults who educate them are approved by the larger society and their parents. Kevin Jennings cannot gain the approval of parents who want their children and their schools drug free. You should replace him with someone who has a record of educating children in a safe and moral environment," the letter read in part.

The letter specifically cited as examples Jennings' admitted history of drug and alcohol abuse, his failure to report a case of child sexual abuse, and writings that include a forward to the book *Queering Elementary Education: Advancing the Dialogue About Sexualities and Schooling*.
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Congressman Bachus said, "Keeping our schools free from substance abuse and violence is critical for our students, teachers, and parents. There is nothing in the background of Kevin Jennings to suggest that he is the individual best qualified to improve security in our schools. This is yet another case of an unelected 'czar' being appointed without any public input and free of congressional oversight."