



September 10, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-226, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, I write to urge the Senate to vote in favor of the nomination of James Kvaal as Under Secretary in the U.S. Department of Education. Over the course of his career, we have come to know Mr. Kvaal as an effective, thoughtful, and objective expert in higher education policy. These traits will serve him, and our nation's students and educators, well in the role of Under Secretary.

Mr. Kvaal brings not only the right temperament to the position, but also a wealth of practical experience with postsecondary education and federal policy. With prior experience in the Senate, the House of Representatives, the White House, the Department of Education, as a professor, and as the president of a nonprofit focused on college affordability and completion, Mr. Kvaal is more than qualified to serve in this position. The merits of this nomination were reflected in the overwhelming bipartisan support Mr. Kvaal received when his nomination was voted out of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

This is a critical position to fill, as the laws and regulations it oversees impact the daily lives of more than twenty million students, nearly five million educators, and more than forty million borrowers. We believe Mr. Kvaal is an exceptional choice for such an important position and for this reason, we strongly urge the Senate to vote in favor of Mr. Kvaal's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "T" and "M".

Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
EDUCAUSE
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association