



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