



March 11, 2025

Sen. Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Sen. Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders,

As your committee considers the nomination of Nicholas Kent to serve as Under Secretary of Education, I write on behalf of the over 1,600 college and university members of the American Council on Education to offer our support for his confirmation.

Having served in this role myself, I know firsthand that the Under Secretary position is one that requires deep knowledge not just of federal postsecondary policy, but also of the diverse and complicated landscape of American higher education. In prior leadership roles, including with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Career Education Colleges and Universities organization, Mr. Kent has gained this knowledge through direct experience with a wide range of institutions while witnessing the impact of federal policy on colleges and universities. Beyond having the requisite experience, it is worth emphasizing that Mr. Kent has demonstrated the temperament and approach needed to succeed as Under Secretary, which is no small thing.

To be clear, this administration has already taken a number of actions we find deeply concerning and has employed rhetoric directed towards colleges and universities that we strongly disagree with. However, we also know that even as Mr. Kent will work to implement policies we may oppose, he will approach these disagreements with an open mind, centering students, taxpayers, and institutions while seeking the best outcome. We know this because we have found ourselves on opposing sides of federal policy issues from Mr. Kent before and have appreciated his consistent and thoughtful approach to attempting to find common ground on the path to crafting good policy. In an increasingly divisive policy landscape, Mr. Kent's commitment to honest engagement will serve all students and campuses well.

For all of these reasons, I am happy to recommend Nicholas Kent to serve as the next Under Secretary of Education at the Department of Education, and urge your committee to act swiftly on his confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell", written in a cursive style.

Ted Mitchell
President