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January 26, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray and Senator Burr:

ASCD strongly supports the nomination of Miguel Cardona to be the next U.S. Secretary of Education and we hope your committee moves swiftly to confirm his appointment.

As an organization that represents over 113,000 educators at all levels of the education profession, we appreciate Dr. Cardona's extensive and varied experience as an educational leader and the expertise, perspective, and passion he brings to serving the needs of all students.

Throughout his award-winning career, Dr. Cardona has focused on providing equity for and support to underserved students and communities. His track record of success in closing achievement gaps and increasing the number of college and career-ready graduates at the district and state levels is testament to the effectiveness of his leadership.

He recognizes the importance of effective teachers and school leaders in student achievement and has helped develop professional evaluations and growth opportunities for educators that help meet those goals. We are particularly impressed with Dr. Cardona's comprehensive systemic reforms, what many call a Whole Child approach to education, in which educators, parents, and entire communities work in concert to ensure that each child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.

Dr. Cardona's experience as a state education leader, district superintendent, school principal, and classroom teacher will be especially valuable in leading the U.S. Department of Education as school systems continue to serve children and educators help students recover both academically and social-emotionally from the coronavirus pandemic. Given the imperative nature of this work, we urge the committee to approve Dr. Cardona's nomination as soon as possible.

Cordially,

Ranjit Sidhu  
Executive Director and CEO

C: Members, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee