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February 12, 2021

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

ASCD strongly supports Miguel Cardona to be the next U.S. Secretary of Education. In light of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee's bipartisan approval of his appointment, we hope you will also vote in favor of his nomination and that the full Senate will confirm him with broad bipartisan support.

Throughout his distinguished and life-long career as a state education leader, district superintendent, school principal, and classroom teacher, Dr. Cardona has focused on providing equity for and support to underserved students and communities. The result has been impressive gains in closing achievement gaps and increasing the number of high school graduates while he has led the Meriden school district and Connecticut Department of Education.

Moreover, he has helped develop effective teachers and school leaders—the two most important in-school factors in student achievement—by providing professional development opportunities and evaluations for educators that best support students. Indeed, Dr. Cardona's collaborative leadership and Whole Child approach to education involves educators, parents, and communities in comprehensively serving the needs of all students.

Dr. Cardona's all-inclusive strategies will be especially important to our students' academic and social-emotional recovery from the profound impact and lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic. His extensive experience at the state and local levels will be invaluable in leading the U.S. Department of Education's support efforts in these areas.

Given the imperative nature of this work, we urge you and the Senate to approve Dr. Cardona's nomination to be the next U.S. Secretary of Education as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ranjit Sidhu
Executive Director and CEO