



July 12, 2021

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

Dear Majority Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, I write to urge you to bring the nomination of James Kvaal as Under Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education to the Senate floor for a vote.

Mr. Kvaal is a tremendously qualified individual who has consistently demonstrated the skills, talents and temperament for the position, and his nomination has been enthusiastically endorsed by individuals and organizations across the political spectrum. Reflecting this widespread recognition of his qualifications for the position, Mr. Kvaal's nomination received strong bipartisan support when it was advanced by the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in April.

Unfortunately, since that time, this nomination has apparently stalled and no floor vote is currently scheduled. This delay has important ramifications for millions of American college students and student loan borrowers and thousands of institutions. As the most senior official overseeing postsecondary education policy in the Department of Education, the Under Secretary is responsible for managing the Administration's efforts on significant issues such as student loan repayment, administration of emergency relief programs and wide-ranging efforts to revise or promulgate regulations. Continuing to leave this role empty will necessarily have a detrimental, and long-lasting, effect on the ability of the Biden Administration to achieve their policy goals.

Given the exceptional merits of the nominee, the strong likelihood of bipartisan support and the critical urgency of filling this role, we ask that you use your authority as the Majority Leader to bring this nomination to the floor for a vote without any further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell".

Ted Mitchell
President

James Kvaal Nomination
July 12, 2021

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities