



July 12, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Health, Education  
Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Lisa Brown to serve as General Counsel for the Office of  
General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Education

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr,

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, I write to express our enthusiastic support for Lisa Brown, who has been nominated to serve as General Counsel in the U.S. Department of Education (the "Department"). Ms. Brown's intellect, judgment, breadth of experience, and professionalism are extraordinary. Her extensive public service and her intensive engagement in a broad array of educational issues as Georgetown University's Vice President and General Counsel ideally position her to bring unique perspective and deep expertise to the critical role of the Department's chief legal advisor.

Ms. Brown is, at her core, a public servant. She began her career as a law clerk to a federal judge in a courthouse in Montgomery, Alabama, and she has served as White House Staff Secretary for President Obama. With additional high level assignments in the Department of Justice, the Office of Management and Budget, and Vice President Gore's office, Ms. Brown has time and again distinguished herself in attending to the needs of the moment and the issues of the era.

Ms. Brown's commitment to justice and her compassionate concern for civil rights were reflected in her early career *pro bono* work while in private practice. They have been on full display during the last eight years as a senior leader and chief legal counsel for the nation's oldest Catholic and Jesuit University. In addition, Ms. Brown's service to Georgetown has immersed her in the varied and ever-evolving issues confronting American higher education in a complex, global context.

We are cautiously optimistic about our nation's emergence from the unprecedented experience of COVID-19. During the next few years, K-12 schools and higher education institutions will be more important than ever to our youth, our post-secondary learners, and the research and innovation pipeline that has fueled and often defined American economic vitality. There is no doubt that the Department needs individuals who have demonstrated the highest levels of competence and commitment in its senior leadership positions.

As someone of impeccable judgment and vast experience, who understands the collaborative nature of engagement and decision-making in government and on campuses, Ms. Brown is ideally suited to advise the Department. We support her nomination without qualification, and urge swift confirmation so that she may begin this important work on behalf of the Department and its vital mission. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Ted Mitchell  
President

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 Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities