



- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- California Institute of Technology
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- The Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- McGill University
- Michigan State University
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- The Ohio State University
- The Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Rice University
- Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Stanford University
- Stony Brook University –
- State University of New York
- Texas A&M University
- Tufts University
- Tulane University
- University at Buffalo –
- State University of New York
- The University of Arizona
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- The University of Chicago
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Florida
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- The University of Iowa
- The University of Kansas
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- University of Missouri, Columbia
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Oregon
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of Southern California
- The University of Texas at Austin
- University of Toronto
- The University of Utah
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- The University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Yale University

April 29, 2022

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Burr,

On behalf of the Association of American Universities, an organization of America’s leading research universities, I write to express my support for the nomination of Dr. Nasser Paydar as Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Paydar is eminently qualified to serve as the next Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education. His distinguished career in higher education is marked by accomplishments as a faculty member, an administrator in multiple posts, and a chief executive. Dr. Paydar has been recognized for his tireless service and strategic leadership during his tenure at IUPUI. Throughout his career he has worked toward making postsecondary education more accessible and affordable for all who seek education and training to advance their knowledge, skills, and careers.

Former Indiana University President Michael McRobbie, who served as AAU’s board chair from 2019 to 2020, worked closely with Dr. Paydar at Indiana University. Dr. Paydar was among President McRobbie’s small group of trusted advisors who served on the Executive Academic Leadership Council at IU. According to President Emeritus McRobbie, Dr. Paydar is a leader who works well with diverse groups of students and other stakeholders, is widely respected, and knows how to get important things done.

On the occasion of his stepping down as Chancellor of IUPUI, he was celebrated for putting student success at the forefront and creating opportunities for underrepresented students to pursue higher education. Both of these endeavors are vital to the success of the next Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education. We urge you and members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee to favorably report Dr. Paydar’s nomination as soon as possible for consideration by the full Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Barbara R. Snyder
President**

cc: Members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee