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February 1, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
The Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

To Incoming Chair Murray, Ranking Member Burr, and the Members of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions:

Student Defense strongly supports the nomination of Dr. Miguel Cardona to be Secretary of Education.

Dr. Cardona's career demonstrates a long-standing commitment to fostering broad-based opportunity and equity, which is essential right now as the nation confronts staggering challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crisis, and deep-rooted systemic inequalities. As a first-generation college student, Dr. Cardona's experience will help inform his approach to higher education and its potential impact on economic opportunity.

President Biden has proposed a bold and urgent agenda, including restoring accountability to the for-profit college industry and issuing regulations to stop federal funds from flowing to predatory or failing schools. As Secretary, Dr. Cardona will have the opportunity use the full authority of the Department to protect students, and to discharge the debts of defrauded former students and over 400,000 permanently disabled Americans.

Student Defense looks forward to working with Dr. Cardona as Education Secretary. We support his nomination and appreciate the Committee's scheduling of Wednesday's hearing.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ament
President
Student Defense