

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chair, Senate HELP Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, I write in strong support of the nomination of John King for Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

AUCD promotes and supports a national network of interdisciplinary centers on disabilities. Our members represent every U.S. state and territory and include 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), 45 Interdisciplinary Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Programs and 15 Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (DDRCs).

Having earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Harvard University, a Master of Arts in the teaching of social studies from Columbia University's Teachers College, a J.D. from Yale Law School, and a Doctor of Education degree in educational administrative practice from Columbia University's Teachers College, Dr. King is well qualified to serve as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. King also brings to his own personal experience leading urban public schools that are closing the achievement gap and preparing students to enter, succeed in, and graduate from college.

Before becoming Acting Secretary, Dr. King had served since January 2015 at the Department as Principal Senior Advisor. In that role, Dr. King carried out the duties of the Deputy Secretary, overseeing all preschool-through-12th-grade education policies, programs and strategic initiatives, as well as the operations of the Department. Dr. King carried out this work with a focus on increasing equity, improving educational outcomes for all students, including those with developmental and other disabilities, and closing achievement gaps through implementation of key Administration priorities in areas including early learning, rigorous academic standards, accessible curricula, universal design for learning, and the inclusion of all groups of students in accountability systems to help schools improve their outcomes.

AUCD strongly supports the confirmation of John King as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education and we urge you to confirm his appointment as soon as possible so that students with disabilities continue to be supported in their educational success.

Sincerely,



Andy Imparato  
Executive Director  
AUCD