

September 21, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Murray, and Ranking Member Burr:

The Alliance for Excellent Education (All4Ed) is pleased to support the nomination of Roberto J. Rodríguez to be the next Assistant Secretary of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education. Centering educational equity is essential to combating both the systemic issues that have long plagued our schools and addressing those exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout his entire career, Mr. Rodríguez has focused his work on advancing equity, access, and excellence in education. We urge his swift confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Our schools and their communities must have someone appointed quickly who cares about their challenges and is willing to fight for them in every aspect of education.

I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Rodríguez in both his capacity as a member of the Alliance for Excellent Education's governing board and as a leader in education policy in and outside of government. My interactions with him stem from a variety of perspectives including state and federal roles. From the beginnings of his career in Washington, D.C., at the National Council of La Raza, now UnidosUS, to his most recent role leading Teach Plus as their president and chief executive officer, Mr. Rodríguez has championed public schools, educators, students, and their families— particularly those historically underserved. In his senior roles in both the U.S. Senate and the White House, he led successful, bipartisan efforts to help students throughout their educational path by increasing the number of children enrolled in early childhood education, redesigning high school experiences, placing a focus on STEM education, and expanding the Pell Grant program

As Assistant Secretary, I strongly believe Mr. Rodríguez will continue his efforts to ensure that all children have access to a well-rounded and high-quality education to prepare them for lifelong success in college and careers. I consider Mr. Rodríguez to be a true champion of America's youth.

Sincerely,

