

Disability Organizations Look to the Future with Dr. Cardona as Education Secretary Nominee

WASHINGTON -- DECEMBER 23, 2020 -- The undersigned national advocacy organizations represent students with disabilities, their families, and the educators who serve them. We are appreciative of the effort put forth by President-Elect Biden and his transition team in the nomination of Dr. Miguel Cardona as the next U.S. Secretary of Education. We also appreciate that the letter we sent regarding the need for any nominee to support the inclusion of and high standards for students with disabilities was taken into consideration in making this nomination.

As the leader of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) -- an agency charged with upholding the civil rights of students with disabilities and improving outcomes for all students -- the next Secretary must put children and youth at the heart of all policy and budget decisions and must work collaboratively with the stakeholders who represent them. Our nation's public education system is at a pivotal moment in the wake of the pandemic, and the next Secretary of Education must be a strong leader who takes bold actions to support the inclusion of and ensure high standards for students with disabilities.

We look forward to the next steps in the nomination process and will be paying close attention to how Dr. Cardona engages with the disability community, considers the needs of students with disabilities and their families, and prioritizes equity in our nation's public schools.

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American Association of People with Disabilities
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Center for Public Representation
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Little Lobbyists
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools
National Down Syndrome Congress
The Advocacy Institute

MEDIA CONTACTS

Maria Town
President & CEO
American Association of People with Disabilities
mtown@aapd.org

Rylin Rogers
Director of Policy
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
rrogers@aucd.org

Julia Bascom
Executive Director
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
jbascom@autisticadvocacy.org

Alison Barkoff
Director of Advocacy
Center for Public Representation
abarkoff@cpr-us.org

Denise Marshall
Executive Director
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
denise@copaa.org

Erin Gabriel
Director of Advocacy
Little Lobbyists
erin@littlelobbyists.org

Meghan Whittaker
Director of Policy & Advocacy
National Center for Learning Disabilities
mwhittaker@nclld.org

Wendy Tucker
Senior Director of Policy
National Center for Special Education in Charter
Schools
wtucker@ncsecs.org

Stephanie Smith Lee
Senior Policy Advisor
National Down Syndrome Congress
stephaniesmithlee@gmail.com

Candace Cortiella
The Advocacy Institute
Candace@advocacyinstitute.org