

October 23, 2024

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chair, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Ranking Member, Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy,

On behalf of the 39 signatory organizations and 30 signatory individuals, we write to express our strong collective support for the immediate confirmation of Dr. Adam Gamoran as the next Director of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). As our nation faces unprecedented challenges in education, we believe that Dr. Gamoran's strong visionary leadership is exactly what IES now needs to help solve complex issues, inspire evidence-informed innovation, and drive meaningful change.

IES plays a pivotal role in providing the independent, non-partisan, scientific evidence on which to ground education and practice and policy in the United States. Its four centers – the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), National Center for Education Research (NCER), National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) and National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE) – work collaboratively to deliver high-quality information that is essential for addressing critical educational challenges, such as improving student achievement, enhancing educational equity, and preparing our nation's workforce for the future.

As a renowned researcher and philanthropic executive, Dr. Gamoran has spent over 40 years championing the power of research to drive positive educational outcomes. His career-long commitment to understanding "what works, and why" and improving the use of research evidence has positioned him as a leading expert in the field. In addition, his deep understanding of IES and its mission makes him uniquely qualified to guide IES during this pivotal time. Most notably, he served on the National Board for Education Sciences (NBES) and led a National Academies report, *The Future of Education Research at IES*.

In his current role as President of the William T. Grant Foundation, Dr. Gamoran has displayed his special leadership skills in advancing the use of research evidence in policy and practice, building research-practice partnerships, and supporting evidence-based strategies for reducing inequality. All of these are essential ingredients for IES's future success.

As our nation's schools grapple with challenges such as chronic absenteeism, teacher shortages, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, evidence-based solutions are more critical than ever. With a permanent director in place, IES can effectively address the urgent need for data-driven solutions to support student learning, improve educational outcomes, and ensure that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential. We urge the committee to confirm Dr. Gamoran without delay.

Sincerely,

Organizational Signers

AACTE: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Advance CTE

AFT

Alliance for Learning Innovation (ALI)

American Educational Research Association

American Mathematical Society

American Psychological Association Services

American Statistical Association

Association of Population Centers

Carnegie Mellon University

CAST

Council for Exceptional Children, Division for Research (DR)

Data Quality Campaign

EDGE Consulting Partners

EdTrust

Education Reform Now

EduColor

ETS

Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences

Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)

Institute for Higher Education Policy

Knowledge Alliance

KnowledgeWorks

LEARN Coalition

Learning Disabilities Association of America

Learning Policy Institute

Lehigh University

National Education Association

Policy Studies Associates

Population Association of America

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Results for America

Society for Research on Adolescence

Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children

The Consortium of Social Science Associations

The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs

The Learning Agency
The Reading League
The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
University of Oregon

Individual Signers

Drew Bailey, School of Education, University of California, Irvine
Sarah Beal
Dr. Beth Boulay
Doug Carnine, Evidence Advocacy Center, Founder and Chair of the Executive Committee
Charissa Cheah, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Joseph Conaty, Formerly U.S. Dept. of Education
Elizabeth Farley-Ripple, University of Delaware
Michael Feuer
Steven Fleischman, Change Dynamics, LLC
Ruth Goltzer, EDGE Consulting Partners
Glenn Good, University of Florida
Eric Grodsky, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Heather Harding, Campaign for our Shared Future
Nancy Kendall, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Christine Leow, The Hope Center, Temple University
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