



March 30, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, & Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, & Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I am writing to express the Council's support for the nomination of Dr. Nasser H. Paydar to be Assistant Secretary of Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. In a March 18, 2022, press release, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said, "I could not be more pleased with President Biden's decision to nominate Dr. Nasser Paydar as assistant secretary for postsecondary education. Throughout his more than 35 years of experience as a higher education leader, Dr. Paydar has championed equitable and affordable access to postsecondary education." The CGS member-institutions agree with Secretary Cardona's assessment of Dr. Paydar's commitment to postsecondary education and count it a privilege to support his nomination.

For over 60 years, CGS has served as the national organization dedicated to advancing graduate education and research. Our membership includes 500 institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada, and abroad, representing a total of over 1.8 million graduate students. Collectively, our members grant 87 percent of all U.S. doctorates and majority of U.S. master's degrees. As an association, we are proud to represent a diverse and dynamic group of institutions of higher education ranging from public and private research-intensive institutions to regional comprehensive institutions, minority-serving institutions, and historically black colleges and universities.

As Chancellor Emeritus for the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Executive Vice President of Indiana University, Dr. Paydar is a well-respected and longtime member of the higher education community. During his tenure as chancellor of IUPUI and executive vice president at Indiana University, Dr. Paydar advanced key strategic priorities concerning student success, research, and engagement. In this regard, he paid particularly close attention to reinforcing IUPUI's deep and longstanding commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), by overseeing the creation of a DEI track for faculty promotion and tenure, as well as convening taskforces focused on recruiting and retaining African American and LatinX students. Dr. Paydar also has a strong and unwavering commitment to graduate education. As



chancellor of IUPUI, 16 new doctoral degree programs were established, which added to the campus's ability to train the next generation of scientists, scholars, and researchers.

Again, it is an honor to support the nomination of Dr. Nasser Paydar to be the next Assistant Secretary of Postsecondary Education. CGS and our member-institutions encourages swift Committee action on Dr. Paydar's nomination and Senate confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Suzanna J. Oitga'.

Council of Graduate Schools
President

Cc:

U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Michael Braun (R-IN)

The Honorable Todd Young (R-IN)