



1201 16th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Rebecca S. Pringle
President

Princess R. Moss
Vice President

Noel Candelaria
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

July 12, 2021

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to support Catherine Lhamon's nomination for Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and Roberto Rodríguez's nomination for Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, both at the U.S. Department of Education.

In her current capacity as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the Domestic Policy Council for Racial Justice and Equity, Ms. Lhamon manages President Biden's equity policy portfolio. In 2016, she was appointed and unanimously confirmed as chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, where she fought for equal rights by clarifying the U.S. government's authority and responsibility to ensure equal protection and access. Before then, she was Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, a position for which she was also unanimously confirmed, and litigated civil rights cases at the National Center for Youth Law, Public Counsel Law Center, and ACLU Foundation of Southern California. Earlier in her career, she taught federal civil rights appeals at Georgetown University Law Center in the Appellate Litigation Program and clerked for the Honorable William A. Norris on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Currently President and CEO of Teach Plus, a nationwide network of more than 15,000 solutions-oriented teacher leaders, Mr. Rodríguez has a lifelong commitment to advancing educational equity and opportunity. His distinguished career in public service includes senior government roles on the White House Domestic Policy Council and in the U.S. Senate for the late Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts. Over the past two decades, he has played a key role in virtually every major education policy effort and legislative reform at the national level including the expansion of early education, adoption of college and career-ready standards in schools, and making college more accessible and affordable. In 2015, his work with bipartisan congressional leaders helped enact the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

NEA strongly supports the nominations of Catherine Lhamon and Roberto Rodríguez, and stands ready to help advance their confirmation.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association