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October 19, 2021

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 VOTE YES on Catherine Lhamon's nomination as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 117th Congress.

In 2016, Ms. Lhamon 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 Department of Education, a position for which she was also unanimously confirmed. In addition to her service in the federal government, Ms. Lhamon 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, Ms. Lhamon 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. She received her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was the Outstanding Woman Law Graduate, and graduated *summa cum laude* from Amherst College.

NEA strongly supports Ms. Lhamon's nomination and urges you to VOTE YES to confirm her as Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association