



August 8, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

Thank you for your leadership to bring forward Nicholas Kent, President Trump’s appointee to serve as U.S. Under Secretary of Education, for Congressional confirmation. Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE) applauds the Senate’s vote. Mr. Kent’s expertise and experience will help advance President Trump’s vision to restore choice and competition in education and improve outcomes for students at every level.

The previous administration marshalled the full resources of the Department of Education to prop up failing public, private, and state-run universities, despite mounting evidence this model of post-secondary education “[no longer works](#).” More than 40 percent of Gen Z college graduates and over half of Millennial graduates say they could have entered their career [without a degree](#). One third wish they had taken a different route or skipped college entirely.

As more and more “[toolbelt generation](#)” students gravitate towards good-paying careers in skilled trades, confidence in higher education has plummeted. Most Americans no longer believe a traditional four-year degree [is worth the cost](#), and almost half of parents [say they would prefer](#) their children *not attend* a four-year college after high school. It’s no wonder that enrollment at career colleges and technical programs—which offer flexible schedules, career-applicable instruction, and cost-effective programming—[continues to outpace](#) any other sector of higher ed.

Yet, in an attempt to foist its mass student loan cancellation plan on a reluctant public—despite being rebuffed by the nation’s highest court—the Biden administration launched an [unprecedented attack](#) on career colleges and faith-based institutions. As CASE noted in our [previous letter](#), the administration’s “sue-and-settle” campaign was never about advancing student interests; it was meant to punish schools that didn’t conform to the Department’s political agenda.

Mr. Kent's has promised to restore balance to the federal regulatory framework and level the playing field for all types of institutions to compete, innovate, and better serve students.

"The federal government should be less focused on making legacy institutions 'too big to fail' and making students skilled enough to succeed... The 'higher education industrial complex' must be shaken up by competition, accountability, and a future-focused mindset," [he wrote following his confirmation](#). "I look forward to embracing alternatives to the traditional four-year degree—promoting vocational training, apprenticeships, and innovative credentials that align education with the in-demand needs of today's workforce."

Mr. Kent's brand of leadership—which dares to challenge the status quo and dug-in special interests, rather than kowtow to them—is exactly the kind of rethinking necessary to restore parity and impartiality to the regulatory system, foster student choice and parental control, and rebuild confidence in U.S. higher education.

Thank you for your efforts to provide a fair hearing and timely confirmation vote for Under Secretary Kent. CASE looks forward to working with you, your colleagues in Congress, and the entire Trump administration to help advance education policies that benefit students and that help secure the United States' position as a global leader.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard Scimeca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

Gerard Scimeca  
Chairman & General Counsel  
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy