



Society for Research in Child Development
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November 15th, 2024

Members of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (Senate HELP)
Committee
U.S. Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building,
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Members of the Senate HELP Committee,

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) calls on the members of this Committee to prioritize filling the Institute of Education Services (IES) Director vacancy, giving due consideration to President's Biden nominee, Dr. Adam Gamoran.

SRCD is a nonpartisan, multidisciplinary professional membership association representing thousands of developmental scientists. Our members' work seeks to improve the lives of children and families. They ask questions about how individual differences and complex systems can impact human behavior, and look to apply what they learn in homes, childcare settings, classrooms, schools, pediatric settings, public policy, and more.

As the U.S. Senate comes back from recess and looks to conclude business on the last two sessions of this Congress, we are requesting that the members of your committee continue their support of IES by moving swiftly to fill the next Director of the agency. Prior to the outgoing Director Schneider's appointment in 2018, the position was left vacant for nearly four years. The IES Director position is critical in guiding federal research, evidence, evaluation, data collection, assessment, technical assistance and dissemination. IES provides independent, non-partisan, scientific evidence on which to ground education and practice and policy in the United States. It plays a crucial role to improve teaching and learning for students across the country, and it is imperative for the U.S. Senate to work to ensure that the agency is not leaderless.

Currently, schools across the nation are grappling with challenges such as teachers' shortages, chronic absenteeism, mental health issues, declining enrollment among other

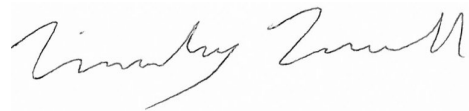
situations that stall education progress in our nation’s children and youth.^{1,2,3,4} With an experienced and knowledgeable IES Director in place, the agency can more effectively address the urgent need for evidence-based solutions to address today’s educational challenges.

Dr. Gamoran is a distinguished member of SRCDC, whose work is well-recognized by various institutions, including the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and the Sociology of Education Section of the American Sociological Association. Dr. Gamoran has extensive service experience, being elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, served as Vice President of the National Academy of Education, and a contributor to numerous panels for the National Research Council (NRC). Dr. Gamoran is well respected in the field and intimately understands how to connect research to policy outcomes. His experience makes him well suited to help drive evidence-based outcomes for America’s students.

It is imperative for the U.S. Senate to continue to build on IES’ work by swiftly filling the vacancy, giving due consideration to President Biden’s nominee, Dr. Adam Gamoran.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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¹ “COE - Public School Enrollment.” *Nces.ed.gov*, nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cga/public-school-enrollment.

² National Library of Medicine. *Child and Adolescent Mental Health*. *Www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov*, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US), 1 Oct. 2022, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK587174/.

³ Toness, Bianca. “Millions of Kids Are Missing Weeks of School as Attendance Tanks across the US.” *AP NEWS*, 11 Aug. 2023, projects.apnews.com/features/2023/missing-students-chronic-absenteeism/index.html.

⁴ “State Teacher Shortages 2024 Update.” *Learning Policy Institute*, 8 Aug. 2024, learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/state-teacher-shortages-vacancy-resource-tool-2024.

Co-signed by the members of the [SRCD's Policy Committee](#), Science Subcommittee. See their names below:

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