

July 31, 2017

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter concerning my nomination to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs at the U.S. Department of Education. I am honored to have been nominated by the President and assure you I will faithfully execute my responsibilities as the Department's primary liaison to Congress, if I have the privilege of being confirmed.

As discussed in our meeting, I fully recognize and respect the role Congress plays and hope, in light of our shared commitment to students and families, we will be able to build a partnership in serving our common goal of putting the needs of students first.

In response to your specific questions:

1. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to ensure, to the best of my ability, that the Department responds to letters and other information requests from members of Congress in a timely, thoughtful and responsive manner.
2. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to ensure, to the best of my ability, that the Department is timely and responsive to requests from members of Congress for briefings, conference calls, and in person meetings with staff and officials at the Department of Education.
3. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to ensure, to the best of my ability, that the Department responds to requests for technical assistance, constituent casework matters, data analyses and other reasonable requests from members of Congress.
4. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to ensure, to the best of my ability, to be timely and commit to proactively notifying the offices of members when their requested timelines are unable to be met by the Department.
5. With full appreciation of the unique role of members of Congress and the corresponding need for information to fulfill their legislative duties, I will work with staff throughout the Department to ensure efficient and accurate processing of Congressional requests regardless of party or leadership position. I respect the oversight responsibilities of Congress and should I be confirmed will, in my role, be as prompt and responsive as possible to Congressional requests.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve within the Department of Education in this position, and appreciate your time and consideration of my nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. L. Oppenheim", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter L. Oppenheim