

November 6, 2008

Dr. John B. Clark, Chairman
SUNY Research Foundation
P.O. Box 9
Albany, New York 12201-0009

Dear Chairman Clark:

As you may know, a group of Research Assistants at Stony Brook University are organizing a union so that they can bargain collectively to secure better working conditions and benefits for themselves. We strongly urge you to treat them fairly by agreeing to a card check and neutrality procedure for union recognition.

I am a strong supporter of collective bargaining, both as a way to reduce worker-management conflict, and as a way of achieving fair wages and working conditions. I hope that you will work with the Stony Brook Research Assistants, and respect their decision to unionize and facilitate prompt negotiations. I believe that working toward positive labor relations is of the utmost importance.

To that end, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 5838, the Teaching and Research Assistant Collective Bargaining Rights Act which amends the National Labor Relations Act to guarantee graduate assistants the right to collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions. Further, I voted for the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), which requires employers to grant recognition if a majority of workers in an unorganized workplace sign union cards. The EFCA provides an alternative recognition route to the burdensome and unfair National Labor Relations Board process.

Although it is not yet law, the EFCA's card check recognition procedure should be open to all workers, including the RAs at Stony Brook University. Many labor unions and employers already use card check and neutrality provisions to ensure a fair recognition process. I trust that you will work with the Research Assistants, as your assistance will facilitate judicious negotiations, which is in the best interests of all parties. Thank you for your consideration.

SINCERELY,

CAROLYN MCCARTHY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS