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Kim Anderson
Executive Director
National Education Association
Re: NALPSE re: NEA/NEASO Negotiations

On behalf of the National Association of Legislative and Political Specialists for Education (NALPSE), I want to express our members collective concern and dismay over the lack of progress in the contract bargaining between the National Education Association (NEA) and the National Education Association Staff Organization (NEASO) union. Not only because of the close working relationship NALPSE members have with our NEASO colleagues, but also because we know that the actions of NEA reverberate in our state governance structures at a time when we need to be unified to fight not just for the future of public education but the future of our democracy.

Not only do NEASO staff aid us in our work impacting policy and politics, but they are also central to helping NEA's three million members understand the importance of engaging in the political and legislative process. With so much at stake this election, from the office of the President to determining whether pro-public education elected officials will control a state's legislature, we need more qualified staff aiding and informing our efforts, not less.

We understand contract negotiations are complicated and often contentious affairs. Many of us have been or are currently in our own fights for fair wages and long-term job security in our state affiliates and are keenly aware of the challenges, however, we are not familiar with the locking out of staff, thankfully. This unprecedented step taken by NEA management is frustrating and disappointing, particularly as we are less than a year out from the previous contentious negotiations between NEA and AFSE.

We stand in solidarity with our NEASO colleagues and hope for a fair and quick resolution. Our members deserve to be fully supported by NEA and our colleagues deserve to return to the work that they love. As we spend the next 102 days working to ensure NEA and affiliate members interests are front and center for the November 5, 2024 election, in the face of great opposition, please do everything in your power to emulate at the bargaining table the principles you espouse to our members- treat all employees with respect, fairness, and help empower them to be the best team members possible. Our members deserve it, and the country is watching.

Natalie Cole
President, NALPSE

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