

July 15, 2024

To: NEA Executive Committee and NEA Management Subject: NEASO Negotiations and Anti-Union Lockout

The Colorado Education Association Staff Organization (CEASO) is writing to address the pressing issue of the ongoing contract negotiations with NEASO, an essential unit of NEA staff. As an organization deeply committed to union principles, we urge you to ensure that NEA staff are treated fairly, with a contract that honors their professionalism and provides a livable wage.

Locking out workers, instead of engaging in sincere and constructive bargaining, is an unethical practice that runs counter to the fundamental values that we, as labor unions, advocate for day in and day out. We must exemplify the employer standards we fight for, rather than mimicking the tactics we oppose. To be clear: cutting off health benefits and pay to workers in hopes of a settlement is a heartless and vicious tactic that can ruin lives. A union engaging in such behaviors is egregious.

It is troubling to witness the divisive tactics being used by NEA which create unnecessary conflict and undermine our shared dedication to solidarity. NEASO members, regardless of location, work diligently to support our efforts for significant step increases and cost of living adjustments at local and state levels. Denying them similar increases is hypocritical and contradicts the values we stand for.

Our union's strength lies in our commitment to fairness, solidarity, and respect for all workers. We strongly urge you to embody these values in your role within NEA by ensuring that NEA staff receive the fair contract they deserve. Thank you for addressing this crucial issue.

In Union Spirit, Colorado Education Association Staff Association Executive Committee Patrice Zekqiel, President Nate Golich, Vice President Hannah Janiec, Secretary Sarah Salmon, Treasurer Danel Segura-Ford, Local Option Associate Staff Representative Peter Morris, Local Option Professional Staff Representative Chanda Reyes, State Associate Staff Representative Sara Fitouri, State Professional Staff Representative