

8/5/2024

I am writing to urge you to quickly settle a contract with NEA staff that respects them and their critical work for our members.

I am a proud 20 year NEA member in Columbus, Ohio. My NEA membership has strengthened me throughout my career, from professional development to securing better contracts for educators that help lift our schools and help our students. NEA staff are vital to NEA. They keep membership data safe, work with Congress and the Biden Administration for better working and learning conditions, train members to become better advocates, and organize micro-credentials for us so we can succeed in our careers. We can't improve our students' learning conditions—or our own working conditions—without their expertise and dedication.

I expect our union to live our union values. Spreading misinformation, shutting workers out, and canceling benefits are union-busting techniques that undermine all working people. It is unacceptable that the nation's largest union would use these tactics against its own workers. It sets a dangerous precedent for the labor movement and for school districts across the nation.

We all share the same goal: improving the lives of all educators and all students. We can't do that when the staff who advocate for us struggle to provide for their families, have to work a second job, or when their pay does not keep pace with inflation.

As NEA says so often, we are stronger together. When NEA leaders, managers, staff, and members all work together, we can lift each other up and help all our students reach their full potential. We can't do that when one group is left behind or asked to make sacrifices we wouldn't make ourselves.

Please give NEA staff a fair contract that respects them and gets them back to work so we can keep working together for our fellow educators and our students.

Izetta Thomas
Education Justice Organizer
Columbus, OHio