

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2008

John Clark and John O'Connor
Chairman and President
SUNY Research Foundation
P.O. Box 9
Albany, NY 12201-0009

Dear Chairman Clark and President O'Connor:

As members of Congress responsive to an employee's desire to collectively bargain with their employers, we are writing to you in support of the research assistants (RAs) at Stony Brook University's research foundation (SUNY RF) and their continued attempt to unionize. We believe that RAs should be able to consider forming a union without undue hardship or unnecessary persuasion from their employer.

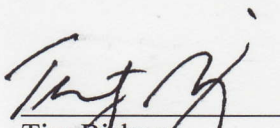
The SUNY RF is opposed to signing a neutrality and card check agreement with CWA that would guarantee RAs' right to make a choice about unionization. Unfortunately, we are concerned that SUNY RF may have participated in several anti-union activities and has employed an outside party to enhance these activities.

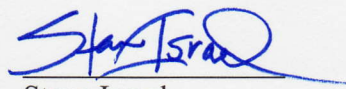
We are strong supporters of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), which requires employers to grant recognition of a union if a majority of employees in an unorganized workplace sign union cards. As you may know, several employers already embrace this method, and we urge SBU to follow the EFCA's intent by providing employees an alternative recognition route to the burdensome and unfair National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) process. Although it is not yet law, we believe the EFCA's card check recognition process should be open to all employees.

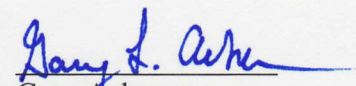
Finally, we request that the SUNY RF not appeal the recent Decision and Direction of Election issued by Region 29 of the NLRB. The issue of whether research assistants are employees covered under the National Labor Relations Act was decided by the NLRB last year and has been reaffirmed by Region 29.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you to resolve these issues in a timely manner.

Sincerely,


Tim Bishop
Member of Congress


Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress

cc: President Shirley Strum Kenny, Stony Brook University
Vice President Lynn Manning, Research Foundation
Ms. Nancy Daneau, Ass. Director, Administrative and Operations Management,
Research Foundation
Mr. Steve Riccobono, Ass. Director, Human Resource Services, Research Foundation
Dean Lawrence Martin, The Graduate School, Stony Brook University