



160+ ELECTED POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS SIGN ON TO OPEN LETTER URGING COLUMBIA ADMINISTRATION TO STOP DELAYING AND RESPECT OUR DEMOCRATIC CHOICE!

As elected and community leaders in the greater New York City area, we write to urge Columbia University to stop opposing the right of its research and teaching assistants (RAs and TAs) to choose collective bargaining.

These employees play a critical role in quality teaching and research at Columbia. By teaching thousands of undergraduates, and conducting innovative research that helps bring roughly \$1 billion in grants and contracts to the University each year, RAs and TAs make Columbia a world leader academically and make it an important economic engine in New York City.

As a majority of these workers have chosen GWC-UAW Local 2110 as their union, they join RAs and TAs at New York University, who now have a collective bargaining agreement that has made NYU a more competitive, accessible and inclusive institution, as well as RAs and TAs at more than 60 major public university campuses who have engaged in collective bargaining for decades.

Out of respect for the important work RAs and TAs provide at Columbia and for the democratic process, we urge the Columbia administration to recognize their right to collective bargaining and publicly commit to the following:

- Columbia will refrain from any further legal or other actions that would delay graduate employees' right to choose collective bargaining;
- Columbia will ensure a free and fair election on unionization by refraining from any effort to influence RAs and TAs in their decision to vote yes or no for GWC-UAW; and
- Columbia will commence good-faith negotiations for a contract immediately upon confirmation of a majority vote by RAs and TAs in favor of GWC-UAW as their union.

Bill DeBlasio, Mayor of New York City
Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senate
Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senate
Joseph Crowley, U.S. House of Reps
Steve Israel, U.S. House of Reps
Hakeem Jeffries, U.S. House of Reps
Grace Meng, U.S. House of Reps
Jerry Nadler, U.S. House of Reps
Jose Serrano, U.S. House of Reps
Nydia M. Velázquez, U.S. House of Reps
Joe Addabbo, NY State Senate
Tony Avella, NY State Senate
Leroy Comrie, NY State Senate
Adriana Espaillat, NY State Senate
Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate
Jesse Hamilton, NY State Senate
Ruth Hassell-Thompson, NY State Senate
Brad Hoylman, NY State Senate
Liz Krueger, NY State Senate
Martin Malave Dilan, NY State Senate
Velmonette Montgomery, NY State Senate
Kevin Parker, NY State Senate
Jose Peralta, NY State Senate
Bill Perkins, NY State Senate
Gustavo Rivera, NY State Senate
Diane Savino, NY State Senate
Jose Serrano, NY State Senate
Daniel Squadron, NY State Senate
Toby Ann Stavisky, NY State Senate
Thomas Abinanti, NY State Assembly
Jeffrion Aubrey, NY State Assembly
Michael R. Benedetto, NY State Assembly
Rodneyse Bichotte, NY State Assembly
James Brennan, NY State Assembly
Vivian E. Cook, NY State Assembly
Marcus Crespo, NY State Assembly
Michael Cusick, NY State Assembly
Michael Dendekker, NY State Assembly
Jeffrey Dinowitz, NY State Assembly
Deborah Gluck, NY State Assembly
Phil Goldfeder, NY State Assembly
Richard Gottfried, NY State Assembly
Aileen Gunther, NY State Assembly

Earlene Hooper, Deputy Speaker
NY State Assembly
Ellen Jaffee, NY State Assembly
Kimberly Jean-Pierre, NY State Assembly
Brian Kavanagh, NY State Assembly
Chuck Lavine, NY State Assembly
Shelley Mayer, NY State Assembly
Michael Miller, NY State Assembly
Walter Mosley, NY State Assembly
Catherine Nolan, NY State Assembly
Danny O'Donnell, NY State Assembly
Steven Otis, NY State Assembly
Amy Paulin, NY State Assembly
Diana C. Richardson, NY State Assembly
Linda B. Rosenthal, NY State Assembly
Nily Rozic, NY State Assembly
Addie Russell, NY State Assembly
Michele Schimel, NY State Assembly
Luis Sepulveda, NY State Assembly
Joann Simon, NY State Assembly
Dean Skoufis, NY State Assembly
Michael Solages, NY State Assembly
Phil Steck, NY State Assembly
Matthew Titone, NY State Assembly
David Weprin, NY State Assembly
Keith Wright, NY State Assembly
Tish James, NYC Public Advocate
Scott Stringer, NYC City Comptroller
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Maria del Carmen Arroyo, NY City Council
Inez Barron, NY City Council
Jimmy Van Bramer, NY City Council
Margaret Chin, NY City Council
Andrew Cohen, NY City Council
Costa Constantinides, NY City Council
Elizabeth Crowley, NY City Council
Laurie Cumbo, NY City Council
Inez Dickens, NY City Council
Daniel Dromm, NY City Council
Rafael Espinal, NY City Council
Mathieu Eugene, NY City Council
Julissa Ferraras, NY City Council
Daniel Garodnick, NY City Council

Vanessa Gibson, NY City Council
Corey Johnson, NY City Council
Ben Kallos, NY City Council
Andy King, NY City Council
Karen Koslowitz, NY City Council
Rory Lancman, NY City Council
Brad Lander, NY City Council
Stephen Levin, NY City Council
Mark Levine, NY City Council
Alan Maisel, NY City Council
Carlos Menchaca, NY City Council
Rosie Mendez, NY City Council
I. Daneek Miller, NY City Council
Annabel Palma, NY City Council
Antonio Reynoso, NY City Council
Donovan Richards, NY City Council
Ydanis Rodriguez, NY City Council
Deborah Rose, NY City Council
Helen Rosenthal, NY City Council
Ritchie Torres, NY City Council
James Vacca, NY City Council
Jumaane Williams, NY City Council
Mario Cilento, President, New York AFL-CIO
Vinny Alvarez, President,
NYC Central Labor Council
Julie Kushner, Regional Director,
UAW Region 9A
Richard Alles, Patrick Dunn, John Farina, George Farinacci, Paul Ferro, Derek Harkin, James Lemonda, James McCarthy, James McGowan,
Uniformed Fire Officers Association Local 854
Joyce Alston, BCTGM Local 53
Stuart Appelbaum, Bruce Both, John Bulgaro, Jim Cahill, Dante Dano, Danny Donohue, Greg Floyd, Sam Fresina, Mike Goodwin, Jake Lemonda, Karen Magee, Rita Mason, Dan McGraw, RWDSU
Warren Baker, President, Steuben/Livingston Labor Council
Emily Barnett, President, UAW Local 7902
Thomas Bauman, Michelle Coon, USW Local 1000
Rowena Blackman Stroud, United University Professionals
Kuba Brown, IUOE Local 94, 94A and 94B
Barbara Bowen, President, Professional Staff Congress
Kathy Button, CSEA Local 436
Arthur Cheliotis, CWA Local 1180
Jim Claffey, IATSE Local One

Jim Conigliaro, IAM District 15
Gordon Deane, President, UAW Local 2320
Anthony DePaulo, IATSE
Patrick Dolan, Steamfitters Union Local 638
Hector Figueroa, SEIU 32BJ
Timothy Finnigan, CSEA Local 608
Peter Fullerton, President, UAW Local 365
Henry Garrido, AFSCME DC37
Larry Goldbetter, President, UAW Local 1981
George L. Miranda, President, Teamsters Joint Council 16
John Murphy, Plumbers Local 1
Andy Pallotta, NYSUT
Ellen Redmond, IBEW
Edgar Romney, Workers United SEIU
Maida Rosenstein, President, UAW Local 2110
Brian Schneck, President, UAW Local 259
James Slevin, President, UAW Local 1-2
Dennis G. Trainor, Vice President, CWA District 1
Vilma Torres-Mulholland, President, UAW Local 2179
Tim Vogt, President, UAW Local 1508
Deborah Wright, President, UAW Local 2325
UAW Retiree Chapters NYC, Local 664, Local 930
Bill Lipton, Executive Director, NYC Working Families Party
Ai Jen Poo, Executive Director, Domestic Workers
Karen Scharff, Executive Director, Citizen Action New York
Sondra Youdelman, Executive Director, Community Voices Heard

