

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Lee C. Bollinger, President  
Columbia University  
Low Library, Room 202  
116th and Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Richard C. Levin, President  
Yale University  
P. O. Box 208229  
New Haven, CT 06520-8229

John Sexton, President  
New York University  
70 Washington Square South  
New York, NY 10012

April 14, 2005

Dear President Lee Bollinger, President Richard Levin, and President John Sexton:

Quality higher education and the right to collective bargaining are essential to building a more just, democratic and equal society. On the campuses that you represent – Columbia University, Yale University, and New York University -- graduate employees want to form a union to win affordable health care, fair wages, and a say in their working conditions.

A majority of workers at these campuses have demonstrated their desire to have a union. On December 17, 2004, New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer certified majority union support for Graduate Student Employees United (GSEU/UAW) at Columbia University. On December 14, 2004, Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz certified majority union support for the Graduate Employees and Students Organization (GESO/UNITE HERE) at Yale University. Finally, New York University workers voted to form a union through the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) process in 2002.

It is imperative that these Universities do not hide behind the NLRB's *Brown University* decision as a way of suppressing the desire of their employees to exercise their basic human right to have a union. *Brown University* ignores not

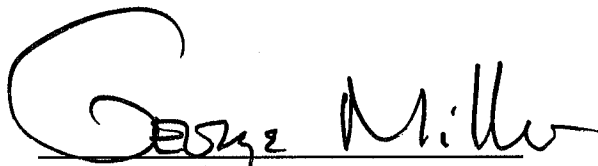
only past precedent, but also overwhelming evidence of the transformation of colleges and universities into large-scale employers of academic workers.

More broadly, current labor law fails to protect the basic right to form unions. In the 108th Congress, we co-sponsored the Employee Free Choice Act, partly because we believe that a demonstration of majority support for forming a union should be honored.

Finally, we are especially concerned that graduate teachers and researchers now have no option but to take direct action, such as striking, to achieve their democratic rights. If this takes place, we hope and expect that your universities will respect their rights and will not retaliate against them for trying to exercise their basic freedoms.

We urge you, as leaders of three of our nation's finest institutions of higher learning, to respect the democratic rights of these graduate employees. We also ask that you bargain in good faith to reach a mutually agreeable settlement with the unions they have chosen as their representatives.

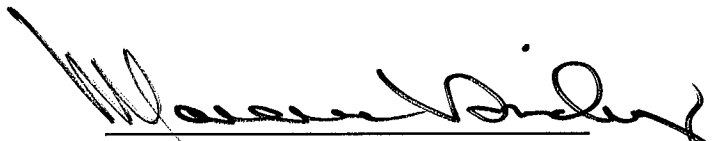
Sincerely,



George Miller, M.C.



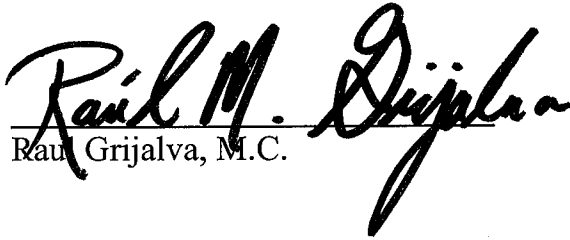
Linda Sanchez, M.C.



Maurice Hinchey, M.C.




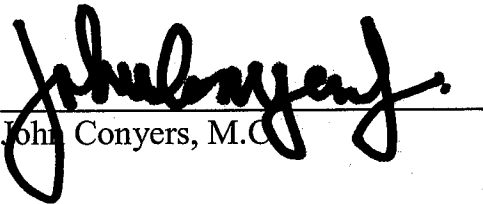
Rosa DeLauro, M.C.

  
Raúl Grijalva, M.C.

  
Dennis Kucinich, M.C.

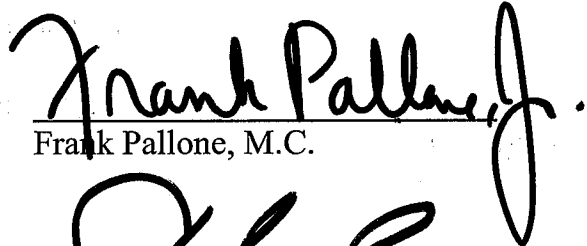
  
Emanuel Cleaver, M.C.

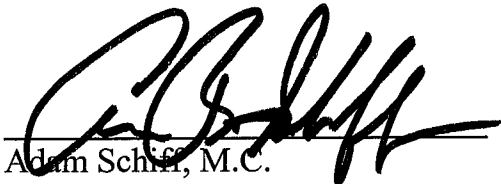
  
Marcy Kaptur, M.C.

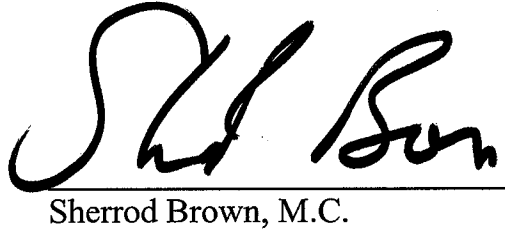
  
John Conyers, M.C.

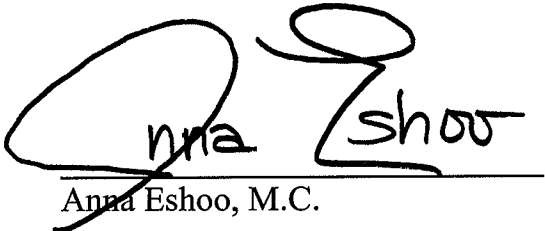
  
Barbara Lee, M.C.

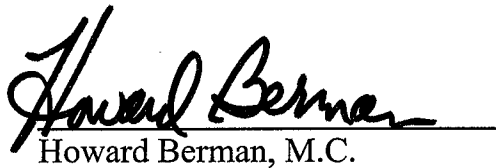
  
Carolyn Kilpatrick, M.C.

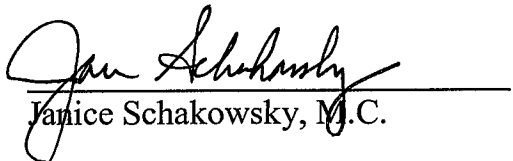
  
Frank Pallone, M.C.

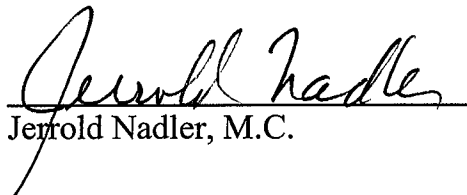
  
Adam Schiff, M.C.

  
Sherrod Brown, M.C.

  
Anna Eshoo, M.C.

  
Howard Berman, M.C.

  
Janice Schakowsky, M.C.

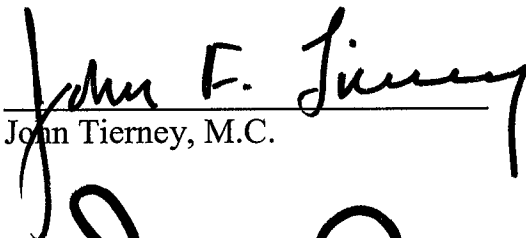
  
Jerrold Nadler, M.C.

  
Brad Sherman, M.C.

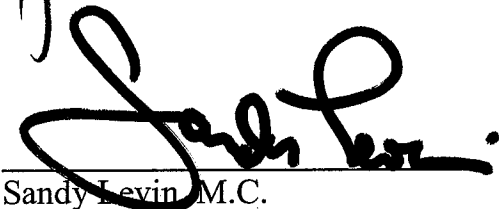
  
Robert Wexler, M.C.

  
Donald Payne, M.C.

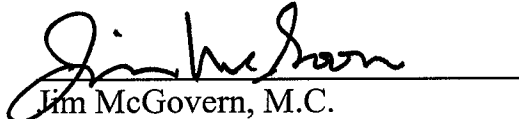
  
Robert A. Brady, M.C.

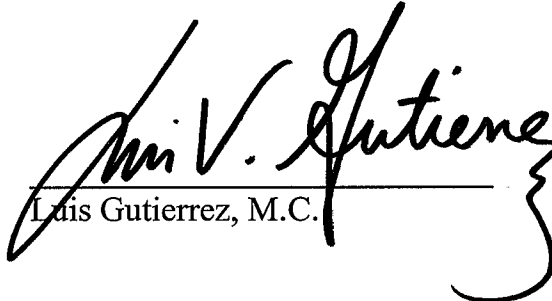
  
John Tierney, M.C.


  
Ted Strickland, M.C.

  
Sandy Levin, M.C.

  
Tim Ryan, M.C.

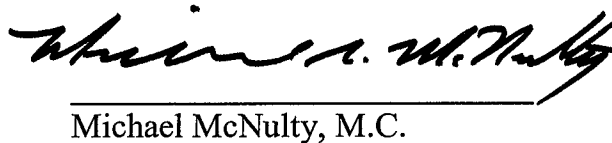
  
Jim McGovern, M.C.

  
Luis Gutierrez, M.C.

  
James Oberstar, M.C.

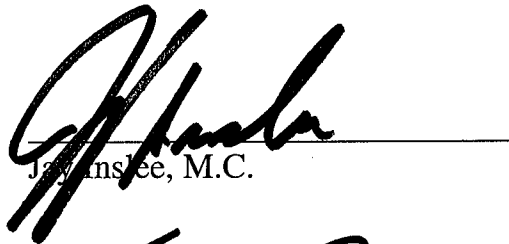
  
Dale Kildee, M.C.

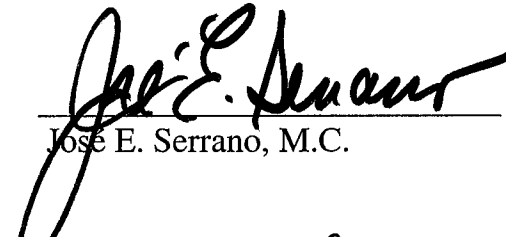
  
Eddie Bernice Johnson, M.C.

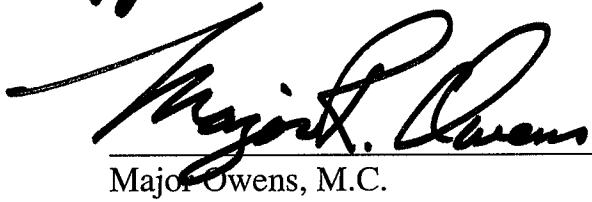
  
Michael McNulty, M.C.

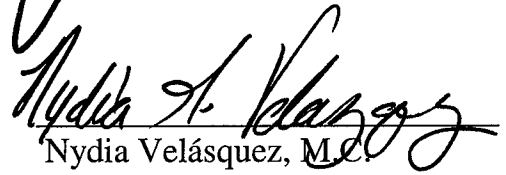
  
Edolphus Towns, M.C.

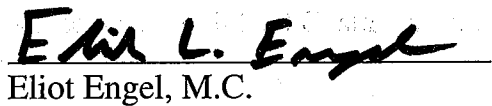
  
Tom Lantos, M.C.

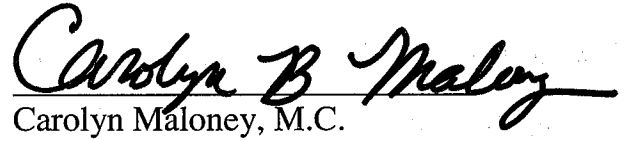
  
Jay Inslee, M.C.

  
Jose E. Serrano, M.C.

  
Major Owens, M.C.

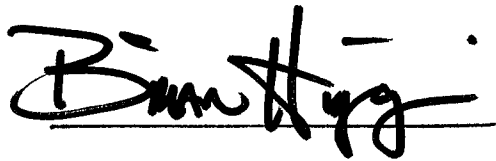
  
Nydia Velásquez, M.C.

  
Eliot Engel, M.C.

  
Carolyn Maloney, M.C.

  
Jerry F. Costello, M.C.

  
Betty McCollum

  
Bill Hogg