

SENATOR JOHN EDWARDS

April 12, 2005

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

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

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

Dear Presidents Bollinger, Sexton, and Levin:

Across our nation, labor unions have long been an important part of achieving the American Dream. Unfortunately, federal law is not currently strong enough to protect a worker's right to choose a union. Although a bipartisan ruling of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in 2000 protected the right of graduate student teachers and researchers at private universities to organize, the NLRB reversed this decision in a partisan vote last summer.

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. On December 17, 2004, New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer certified majority union support for Graduate Student Employees United (GSEU/UAW) at Columbia University. Finally, New York University workers voted to form a union through the NLRB in 2002.

As leaders of three of our nation's finest institutions of higher learning, I hope and expect that you will bargain in good faith with each organization.

Sincerely,



John Edwards

John@OneAmericaCommittee.com

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