

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2005

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

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

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

Dear President Bollinger, President Levin, and President Sexton:

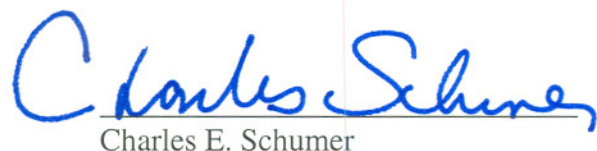
Quality higher education and the right to bargain collectively are essential to building a more just, democratic and equal society. On the campuses of each of your great universities – Columbia, Yale, and NYU – graduate student employees want to form a union to obtain affordable health care, fair wages, and a say in their work conditions.

A majority of these workers have clearly demonstrated their wish to do so. Last December, Connecticut Secretary of State Bysiewicz certified majority union support for employees at Yale, and New York Attorney General Spitzer certified majority union support for employees at Columbia. Graduate employees at NYU voted to form a union through the processes of the National Labor Relations Board in 2002, and are covered by a collective bargaining contract that expires this year.

We urge you to honor these strong demonstrations of majority support for participation in unions, to respect the basic rights of these graduate student employees, and to bargain in good faith with the unions they have chosen as their representatives.

Sincerely,

  
Edward M. Kennedy

  
Charles E. Schumer

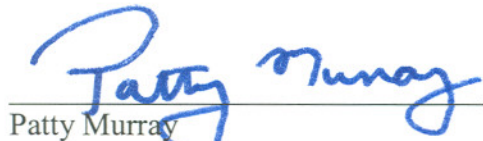
Letter to President Bollinger, President Levin, and President Sexton  
April 15, 2005

  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

  
Richard Durbin

  
Tom Harkin

  
Russell D. Feingold

  
Patty Murray