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**President and CEO**

Maya Wiley

July 22, 2025

**Defending the National Education Association's Right to Advocate**

Dear Member of Congress:

Whether we're from cities, suburbs, or rural communities, we all depend on public schools and the educators in these schools who support our children and their learning. Teachers, parents, and students rely on nonprofits, including unions, as vehicles to express their views, petition the government, and advocate for their families. Every community benefits when educators can advocate for strong public schools, when our children have access to the resources they need to learn and thrive, and when civil society can serve as a check on power.

Yet recent actions from Congress and the administration have been devastating for students, parents, and teachers. Instead of fixing the problem, some in Congress are attempting to destroy one of the leading organizations advocating for public education, for good jobs, and for children — the National Education Association (NEA). This is part of a broader assault on any independent voice that may oppose the actions of this administration — including law firms, media, universities, nonprofits, charities, and labor unions — by stripping federal funding, launching investigations, and threatening tax-exempt status.

Attacks on educators and their union, including the authoritarian attacks we're seeing from the Trump administration's efforts to destroy public education, will only serve to hurt students across this country. The administration is working to tear down those who push back brick-by-brick. Today, they are focused on the NEA. Who will it be tomorrow?

The administration and their allies in Congress have a track record of targeting unions and advocates in an attempt to silence our collective voices. If we let that happen, the children in our communities will suffer. We all must unite together against attacks on our schools, on our children, and on the free exchange of ideas.

When the government uses its power to punish organizations for their advocacy, it attacks freedom of speech and freedom of association, threatening any person or group who wishes to educate the public and make demands of elected leaders.

The NEA represents more than 3 million educators in more than 14,000 communities across every state in America. These are the teachers who help your child learn to read, the counselors who support struggling students, and the support staff who keep schools running

July 22, 2025  
Page 2 of 16

safely. When you attack their right to advocate for students, educators, and public education, you are attacking the voices of millions of working families who depend on strong public schools.

This assault doesn't start or stop with the NEA. It impacts any organization that challenges the administration's agenda of concentrating wealth and power in the hands of a few while dismantling the public institutions that serve everyone. While the NEA fights for smaller class sizes, adequate school funding, and support for teachers, this administration has:

- Withheld \$6.9 billion in federal education funding that pays for reading specialists, mental health counselors, and support for English learners
- Systematically dismantled the Department of Education, eliminating programs that help recruit teachers to high-need schools
- Shuttered civil rights enforcement offices that protect students from discrimination and ensure schools serve all children of all races, religions, backgrounds, and abilities
- Attacked collective bargaining rights that help ensure quality educators can afford to stay in the profession and serve students long term

For these reasons, we call on Congress to reject government retaliation against advocacy groups and oppose efforts to silence organizations advocating for the people they serve. This protects the constitutional principles that guarantee all Americans' right to organize, advocate, and petition the government.

The American people deserve a government that serves all of us, not one that silences those who dare to speak up. We urge you to join us in defending these fundamental principles. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Kanya Bennett, managing director of government affairs at The Leadership Conference, at [Bennett@civilrights.org](mailto:Bennett@civilrights.org).

Sincerely,

## **NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
A. Philip Randolph Institute  
Action Center on Race and the Economy  
Advancement Project  
The Advocacy Institute  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
AFL-CIO  
African American Policy Forum  
AFT | Education, Healthcare, Public Services  
Alliance for Diplomacy and Justice  
Alliance for Justice  
Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools

July 22, 2025  
Page 3 of 16

American Association of University Professors  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Atheists  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Constitution Society  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO  
American Pride Rises  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
Americans for Financial Reform  
Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
Amnesty International USA  
Arab American Institute  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Black Youth Vote  
Branch4  
BWI Global Union  
Care in Action  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Economic and Policy Research  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
The Chamberlain Network  
Child Labor Coalition  
Choose Democracy  
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues  
Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
Color Of Change  
Common Cause  
CommonDefense.us  
Community Change Action  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Economic Policy Institute  
EdTrust  
Education Law Center  
End Citizens United

July 22, 2025  
Page 4 of 16

Equal Rights Advocates  
Fair Count Inc  
Fair Share America  
Faithful America  
Family Values @ Work  
Family Values @ Work Action  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
For Our Future  
Freedom From Religion Foundation  
Higher Ed Labor United  
Hispanic Federation  
HREA  
Human Rights Campaign  
Human Rights First  
In the Public Interest  
Indivisible  
Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific  
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)  
International Union of Painters & Allied Trades  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Just Solutions  
Kids Can't Wait  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund)  
Matthew Shepard Foundation  
Mi Familia Vota  
Mi Vecino  
MoveOn  
Muslim Advocates  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.  
National Action Network  
National Action Network LV  
National African American Clergy Network  
National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)

July 22, 2025  
Page 5 of 16

National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest)  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation  
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy  
National Consumers League  
The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association Retirees Organization (NEARO)  
National Employment Law Project  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National PLACE  
National Women's Law Center  
NBJC  
NCNW  
NEA Arab American Caucus  
NEA Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus  
NEA Aspiring Educators  
NEA Black Caucus  
NEA Hispanic Caucus  
Network for Public Education Action  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
The Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), AFL-CIO  
Our Schools USA  
Parent Coalition for Student Privacy  
Partnership for the Future of Learning  
Pastors for Children  
People For the American Way  
People Power United  
People's Action Institute  
Poder Latinx  
Popular Democracy  
Pride At Work, AFL-CIO  
Public Citizen  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
Reproductive Freedom for All  
SAGE  
Saphron Initiative  
Secure Elections Network  
SEIU

July 22, 2025  
Page 6 of 16

The Sikh Coalition  
Sisters Lead Sisters Vote  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network  
Stand Up America  
State Voices  
Stop AAPI Hate  
Sunrise Movement  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
UnidosUS  
UnidosUS Action Fund  
Unite Here  
United Auto Workers (UAW)  
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE)  
United Food and Commercial Workers Union  
Vladimir & Araxia Buckhantz Foundation  
Voices for Progress  
Voto Latino  
Western States Center  
Win With Black Women  
The Workers Circle  
Working America  
Working Families Party  
WorkLife Law  
Young Democratic Socialists of America

## **STATE, LOCAL, AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **ALASKA**

Alaska Nurses Association

### **ARIZONA**

Arizona AFL-CIO  
Arizona American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees  
Arizona Center for Women's Advancement  
Arizona Education Association  
Arizona Justice Alliance  
Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind Education Association  
Arizona Students' Association  
Balsz Education Association  
Chandler Education Association  
Chino Valley Education Association  
Chispa Arizona

July 22, 2025  
Page 7 of 16

Deer Valley Education Association  
Educational Support Professionals of Chandler  
Flowing Wells Education Association  
Fuerte Arts Movement  
Gilbert Education Association  
Glendale Education Association  
Higley Education Association  
Isaac District Education Association  
LUCHA  
Marana Education Association  
National Council of Jewish Women Arizona  
One Arizona  
Opportunity Arizona  
Peoria Education Association  
Phoenix Elementary ESPA  
Pima Community College Education Association  
Progress Arizona  
Save Our Schools Arizona  
Secular AZ  
Sunnyside Education Association  
Tempe Secondary Education Association  
Tolleson Union Education Association  
UFCW Local 99

#### ARKANSAS

Arkansas Citizens First Congress  
Arkansas Education Association  
Arkansas Public Policy Panel

#### CALIFORNIA

California Faculty Association (CFA)  
CSU-AAUP  
CSUEU  
Equality California  
Evolve California  
Old Adobe Teachers Association  
Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco  
Turlock Teachers Association  
Workers United, Western States Regional Joint Board

#### COLORADO

Black Parent Network  
Colorado Education Association

July 22, 2025  
Page 8 of 16

PEAK Parent Center

## CONNECTICUT

4Cs SEIU 1973  
Connecticut Education Association  
Connecticut For All  
CT Association of School Librarians (CASL)  
New Haven Federation of Teachers Local 933  
SEIU 1199NE

## DELAWARE

Delaware State Education Association Aspiring Educators

## FLORIDA

Alachua County Education Association  
American Association of University Women of Florida  
Brevard Federation of Teachers  
Broward Teachers Union  
Citizens for Truth and Justice in Education  
Collier County Education Association  
Communications Workers of America Local 3102  
Desoto County Educators Association  
Duval Teachers United  
The Education Association of St. Lucie  
Escambia Education Association  
Families for Strong Public Schools  
Florida Council of Churches  
Florida Education Association  
Florida State University Chapter of United Faculty of Florida-Graduate Assistants United  
Gadsden Educational Staff Professional Association  
Hendry Educational Support Personnel Association  
Hernando Classroom Teachers' Association  
Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association  
Hillsborough School Employees Federation  
Husw4730  
IBEW Local 756  
Jacksonville Chapter of the National Organization for Women  
Levy County Education Association  
Manatee Education Association  
Marion Education Association  
Marion Educational Support Professional  
Martin County Education Association  
Nassau Educational Support Personnel Association



July 22, 2025  
Page 9 of 16

Nassau Teachers' Association  
NC-UFF  
Orange County Classroom Teachers Association  
Pastors For Florida Children  
PCTA  
Pinellas Educational Support Professionals Association  
Pinellas Parents Advocating for Public Schools  
Putnam Federation of Teachers/United  
Santa Rosa Education Association  
SEIU Florida State Council  
Seminole Education Association  
St Johns Education Association  
St Lucie County TIGER PAC  
State Voices Florida  
Sumter County Education Association  
Support Our Schools  
Support Personnel Association of Lee County  
UA Plumbers 295  
UFF-UCF  
UFF-FAU  
UFF-FGCU  
UFF-SPC  
Union of Escambia Education Staff Professionals  
United Faculty of Florida  
United Faculty of Florida - Florida International University  
United Faculty of Florida - USF Chapter  
United Faculty of Florida - University of Florida  
United Faculty of Miami Dade College  
University of Florida Graduate Assistants United  
University of South Florida Graduate Assistants United  
Volusia United Educators  
Volusia/Flagler CLC, AFL-CIO  
Voters for Strong Public Schools  
Walton County Education Association (FL)

#### GEORGIA

CWA District 3  
Fair Fight Action  
Georgia Association of Educators

#### HAWAII

Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

July 22, 2025  
Page 10 of 16

## ILLINOIS

Bloomington Education Association  
CFT - A Union of Educators and Classified Professionals  
Chicago Jewish Labor Committee  
Chicago Teachers Union  
Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce  
Illinois Education Association  
Illinois Education Association Aspiring Educators  
Illinois Families for Public Schools  
Illinois Federation of Teachers  
Network 49

## INDIANA

CHMT Chapter of Indiana State Teachers Association, Inc.  
Crawfordsville Education Association  
Evansville Teachers Association  
Fort Wayne Education Association  
Indiana State Teachers Association  
Indianapolis Education Association (IEA)  
Jay Classroom Teachers Association, Portland, IN  
Logansport Education Association  
Madison Teachers' Association  
Northeast Indiana Friends of Public Education  
Pastors for Indiana Children  
Pike County Teachers Association  
Spencer-Owen Education Association

## IOWA

Iowa State Education Association  
Iowans for Public Education

## KANSAS

Families Together, Inc.  
Game On for Kansas Schools  
Kansas NEA  
Lawrence Education Association

## KENTUCKY

Kentucky Education Association Aspiring Educators

## LOUISIANA

East Baton Rouge Parish Association of Educators

July 22, 2025  
Page 11 of 16

Louisiana Association of Educators  
St. Landry Association of Educators

#### MAINE

Androscoggin Retired Educators Association  
Bangor Education Association  
Educators for a Multilingual Maine  
Maine Education Association  
Maine People's Alliance  
MSEA SEIU Local 1989

#### MARYLAND

Maryland State Education Association (MSEA)  
Public Justice Center  
SEIU Local 500  
The Parents' Place of MD

#### MASSACHUSETTS

AFT Massachusetts  
Malden Education Association  
Massachusetts Action for Justice  
North Attleboro Federation of Teachers

#### MICHIGAN

Aspiring Educators of Michigan  
Aspiring Educators of Michigan State  
Local 223 UWUA AFL-CIO  
MEA-NEA Local 1  
Michigan League for Public Policy  
Support Forest Hills Public Schools

#### MINNESOTA

Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers #1 MN/ND/SD  
AFSCME 65  
Education Minnesota  
Minnesota AFL-CIO  
Minnesota Alliance for Retired Americans  
Minnesota Nurses Association  
Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO  
SEIU Local 284  
St. Paul Regional Labor Federation Retiree Council  
UA Local 15 Minneapolis and St. Cloud MN  
UFCW Local 663

July 22, 2025  
Page 12 of 16

Unite Here Local 17  
Workers Confluence  
West Red River Valley ALC Minnesota, North Dakota AFL CIO

#### MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Association of Educators  
Parents for Public Schools of Greenwood & Leflore County, Inc

#### MISSOURI

Missouri National Education Association Aspiring Educators  
Missouri NEA

#### MONTANA

Big Sky 55+  
Catalyst MT  
Montana AFL-CIO  
Montana Budget & Policy Center  
Montana Federation of Public Employees  
Montana Nurses Association  
Montana Public Interest Research Group  
Montanans Organized for Education

#### NEVADA

Battle Born Progress  
Native Voters Alliance Nevada  
Nevada Chapter of the National Organization of Women  
New Day Nevada  
One APIA Nevada  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Silver State Equality  
UNITE HERE Culinary Workers Union, Local 226

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

American Friends Service Committee-New Hampshire Program  
New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ Economic Justice Ministry  
New Hampshire Faith & Labor Alliance  
New Hampshire Voices of Faith  
Occupy NH Seacoast

#### NEW JERSEY

AFT New Jersey  
Hudson County Central Labor Council, Retirees Comm.  
New Jersey Jewish Labor Committee

July 22, 2025  
Page 13 of 16

NJ21United  
Save Our Schools New Jersey

NEW MEXICO  
AFT New Mexico

NEW YORK STATE  
Class Size Matters  
New York State United Teachers  
NYS Public Employees Federation  
NYSUT Retiree Council 22  
Rochester Coalition for Public Education  
Sun River Health  
United Hebrew Trades - New York Jewish Labor Committee  
United University Professions/AFT 2190  
Win With Black Women New York

NORTH CAROLINA  
FIRST  
North Carolina Justice Center

OHIO  
OHIO - Public Education Partners  
Ohio Education Association- Aspiring Educators  
Ohio Federation of Teachers  
Westlake Teachers Association

OKLAHOMA  
AFT Oklahoma  
Oklahoma Rural Schools Coalition

OREGON  
Community and Parents for Public Schools Portland Chapter  
Oregon Education Association Aspiring Educators  
SEIU Local 49

PENNSYLVANIA  
AFT Pennsylvania  
Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools  
Philadelphia Federation of Teachers

RHODE ISLAND  
AFSCME Rhode Island Retirees Chapter 94

July 22, 2025  
Page 14 of 16

FUERZA LABORAL  
IBEW 2323  
Rhode Island AFL-CIO  
RI Employment Security Alliance Local 401 SEIU  
RI Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina Education Association

#### TENNESSEE

Tennessee BATs

#### TEXAS

Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative  
Texas Kids Can't Wait  
Texas State Teachers Association-Aspiring Educators

#### VIRGIN ISLANDS

St. Thomas/St. John Federation of Teachers

#### VIRGINIA

Shenandoah University SVEA AE

#### WASHINGTON STATE

Bethel Education Association  
Clover Park Education Association  
Franklin Pierce Education Association  
PAVE  
Soundview Uniserv Council  
United School Employees of Pasco  
Washington District Education Association  
UFCW 3000

#### WISCONSIN

A Better Wisconsin Together  
Aspiring Educators of Wisconsin  
Aspiring Educators UW-Madison  
Citizen Action of Wisconsin  
Schools & Communities United, Milwaukee-WI  
WI Working Families Party  
Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools  
Wisconsin Education Association Council  
Wisconsin Public Education Network

July 22, 2025  
Page 15 of 16

## GLOBAL

ACT Philippines  
AIFTO  
AIPTF  
All Ceylon Union of Teachers  
Armenian Constitutional Right - Protective Centre NGO  
Asociación de docentes de la Universidad de la República (Uruguay)  
Australian Education Union  
Bahrain Teachers' Association (BTA)  
Canadian Teachers' Federation  
CNTE - Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Educação do Brasil  
CONADU  
Confederación de Educadores Argentinos-CEA  
CTERA  
Education International Asia Pacific Region  
EI  
FECCOO  
Federação Nacional dos Professores (FENPROF)  
FENAPES  
FGESRS  
German Education Union (GEW)  
GUPT  
Himachal pradesh school lecturer association (HPSLA) Affiliated to All india federation of teachers organisation(AIFTO)  
International Trade Union Confederation  
KPSTA ( affiliated to AIPTF)  
Kurdistan Teachers Union - Iraq  
NASUWT - The Teachers' Union  
National Education Union (United Kingdom)  
National Teacher's Association, NTA Taiwan  
Nepal Teachers Association, NTA  
NUTP  
Organización de Trabajadores de la Educación Auténtica  
OTEP AUTENTICA SINDICATO NACIONAL  
PPSTLL  
Queensland Teachers' Union  
Secretaria General de CTERA  
Sindicato de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores de la Educación Costarricense SEC  
SindProifes  
SNE/CDT MAROC  
SNESUP Maroc  
South African Democratic Teachers Union

July 22, 2025  
Page 16 of 16

Sutep

Syndicat national de l'enseignement membre de la fédération démocratique du travail

Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine

UEPC/CTERA

UNE

UNE-SN

Unión de trabajadores de la educación - U.T.R.E

USLTS

UTE CTERA

UTELPa La Pampa Argentina