

June 7, 2017

I am Mike Williams and I teach at Highline High School. In the past few years, I have been quite appreciative of the joint efforts of the Highline Education Association and the school district in supporting working families and their children who attend our schools. Recently, for example, the district joined HEA in welcoming families into our schools after a particularly contentious election. Prior, HEA, the district and community partners came together around Graduate Highline, a very successful and visible community initiative.

It has been this collaborative spirit that made hearing that Dr. Enfield had signed on to a PSESD letter proposing to limit HEA's collective bargaining rights so shocking and disappointing.

Collective bargaining is the root of working people's ability to negotiate a decent wage and working conditions. Research shows that union decline in this country has lowered the wages even for non-union workers.

Anyone who claims to serve and support working families and their children must be committed to protecting their right to organize and bargain collectively. Even pragmatically, a district needs to remember that poverty, more than any other factor, has determined public school success for the past 120 years.

So, why would a school district who publicly proclaims to help working families support limitations to one of the most important tools used to raise people out of poverty?

Tonight, as a representative of the Highline Education Association, I stand with rank and file members of Laborers, Teamsters, Seattle Police Officers Guild, and the King County Labor Council to ask that Dr. Enfield remove her name and it's implied support for a policy that ultimately damages families living and working within the Highline School District by setting a precedent of limiting collective bargaining rights.

Thank You