

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

October 22, 2015

To Faculty Forward & Service Employees International Union:

I support the right of workers to organize by creating and maintaining a fair and transparent organizing process for faculty at Illinois colleges and universities to make a decision.

The right to organize has been a bedrock of U.S. labor law for generations, and it has played a critical role in growing our economy, strengthening our workforce, and maintaining fair working conditions. Unfortunately, workers attempting to organize have sometimes been confronted with hostility and retaliation or received inaccurate information and deceptive advice.

Although outside individuals and groups are entitled to their thoughts on whether contingent faculty would be best served by unionizing, workers alone have the responsibility to decide for themselves.

I urge Illinois colleges and universities to protect the right of contingent faculty to decide whether to organize. Workers deserve to have complete and accurate information, and to come to a decision without being harassed or threatened.

I look forward to an open and thoughtful process that allows all workers to arrive at the best conclusion for themselves, their fellow faculty, and the university or college.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator
Richard J. Durbin