

March 7, 2014

Susan Herbst  
President  
University of Connecticut  
352 Mansfield Rd, Unit 1048  
Storrs, CT 06269-1048

**Subject: An Open Letter To President Herbst**

**Graduate Employee Union/UAW (GEU/UAW)  
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

We, the undersigned, support the right of graduate research and teaching assistants to establish their union, Graduate Employee Union/UAW (GEU/UAW), and engage in collective bargaining with the University of Connecticut (UCONN).

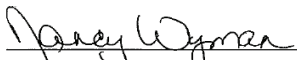
UCONN graduate employees play a critical role in maintaining quality and access to Connecticut's system of higher education. By teaching thousands of undergraduates and conducting innovative research, they make UCONN a highly sought after college for thousands of prospective students, help fuel UCONN's growing reputation as a research power house and stimulate the state's economy by attracting grant and contract revenue.

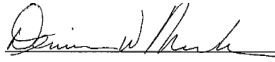
In forming their union, UCONN graduate employees join research and teaching assistants at more than 60 university campuses across the United States, as well as thousands of UCONN employees who already engage in collective bargaining.

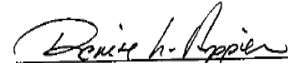
We understand that, to date, UCONN has not interfered with graduate employees' efforts to unionize.

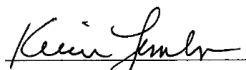
We urge UCONN administration to continue to remain neutral, refrain from any delay tactics and allow the process to move forward quickly under the rules and practices of the State labor board.

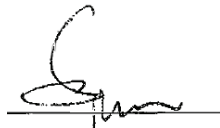
Sincerely,

  
NANCY WYMAN  
Lieutenant Governor

  
DENISE MERRILL  
Secretary of the State

  
DENISE NAPPIER  
State Treasurer

  
KEVIN LEMBO  
State Comptroller

  
GEORGE JEPSEN  
Attorney General

Cc: Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
Larry McHugh, Chair, Board of Trustees