



## OHIO SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Board of Trustees  
Wright State University  
282 University Hall  
Dayton, Ohio 45435

February 8, 2019

Dear Trustees,

We write in support of the Wright State University faculty who are exercising their ability to collectively bargain to protect the fair wages and benefits of workers.

We all have a shared interest in attracting top talent to Ohio and ensuring they are equipped with the means to support their families and plant roots here. Creating greater opportunity through access to health care, fair wages and benefits, and a seat at the bargaining table helps workers not only at Wright State, but across Ohio.

There is no question that Wright State faces financial challenges. Like other institutions of higher learning across Ohio, your university has not received the financial support it needs from the state. The state has not restored pre-recessionary levels of state share of instruction (SSI) per student, though the state's budget has recovered.<sup>1</sup> The state is sending less money per student to universities than we were over ten years ago, but we have expected you to cut costs and reduce prices.

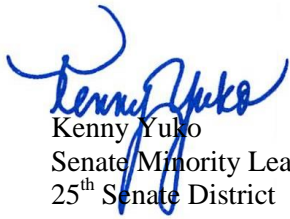
However, the shortcoming of the state's commitment to universities is not the only hurdle that Wright State has had to overcome. According to news reports, the university has encountered some financial issues of its own making, including a federal investigation into work visa violations, and various errors and poor fiscal management which more than make up for what the university was trying to conserve to avoid fiscal watch. The faculty are not responsible for these decisions, but it seems as though they are being asked to pay for them.

It is disheartening that while there is only one main point of difference between the two sides, they remain so far apart. It has been reported that the administration at Wright State wants to eliminate the ability of its professors to negotiate health care, which subverts their ability to collectively bargain on any other matter of cost or workload. Allowing the administration to balance any concessions by increasing premiums or reducing the quality of health care impedes the ability of the union to negotiate.

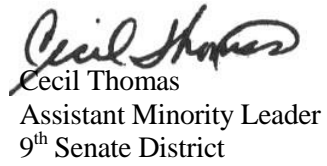
The undersigned members of the Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus are united in our support of the ability to collectively bargain as a right that creates a better quality of life for all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

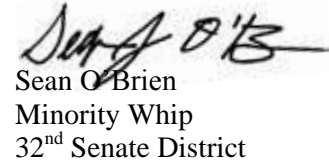
1. [http://www.sheeo.org/sites/default/files/SHEF\\_FY2017.pdf](http://www.sheeo.org/sites/default/files/SHEF_FY2017.pdf)



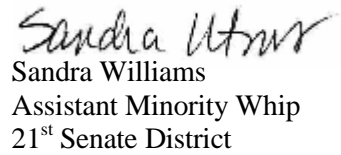
Kenny Yuko  
Senate Minority Leader  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District



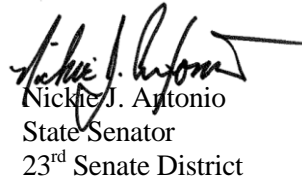
Cecil Thomas  
Assistant Minority Leader  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Sean O'Brien  
Minority Whip  
32<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



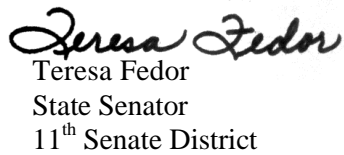
Sandra Williams  
Assistant Minority Whip  
21<sup>st</sup> Senate District



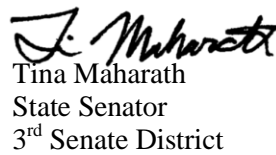
Nickie J. Antonio  
State Senator  
23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



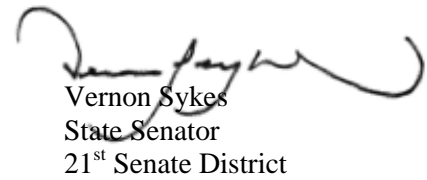
Hearcel Craig  
State Senator  
15<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Teresa Fedor  
State Senator  
11<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Tina Maharath  
State Senator  
3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



Vernon Sykes  
State Senator  
21<sup>st</sup> Senate District