

Dear NEA member,

More than 30,000 NEA members have shown support for Sen. Bernie Sanders to be our next president through his campaign website or various social media sites. We are writing now because we are concerned that the NEA is poised to endorse Hilary Clinton on October 2.

Bernie's lifelong commitment to public education, opposition to charters and for profit education, support for collective bargaining rights, health care for all, expanded social security, real solutions to climate change, free tuition at public higher ed, \$15 minimum wage, no super PAC funding... (the list goes on and on) -- makes Bernie not only the best education candidate, but the best candidate for all working families.

Many NEA members have been focused on building support within our local organizations and communities for Bernie. However, right now our national union is on the verge of making an endorsement for Hillary Clinton at the NEA Board of Directors meeting set for October 2.

An early endorsement for Clinton would be based only on advocacy by national and state leaders without membership input. An early endorsement would also violate the clear sense of the members at our recent Representative Assembly meeting that any such endorsement would come in 2016 as it did in 2008.

But like it or not, this is our time to mobilize against an endorsement next week not to moan about it. NEA members need to make our opposition known in every state

association *and you need to do it now.*

As Vermont-NEA President Martha Allen said when her board recommended Bernie's candidacy, "We want to let the whole country in on what we in Vermont have long known. Bernie's core values are in line with ours: he is pro-family, pro-worker, pro-education and pro-labor and we believe the time has come for his vision to become a national reality."

We are asking each of you to mobilize in your local associations and send group and individual emails to your state NEA leaders.

[With time running short, please click here to be linked to a sample letter to send to your state association.](#) We would like to keep track of your communications so that we can track the grassroots member support for a democratic process and no early endorsement. Please reply back to this email to let us know what you and others are doing.

No matter what decision our NEA PAC leaders make next week, we will return to our focus on building support for Bernie in the upcoming caucus and primary states. If you share our commitment to building a strong democratic organization, now is the time to make your voice heard loud and clear for a transparent process and real membership engagement in what will be one of the most important political decisions that our organization will make.

In unity,

Donna Johnson, President

University Staff Association
University of Mass., Amherst campus
Massachusetts Teachers Association

Shelley Johnson, President
West Yellowstone Education Association
Montana NEA

Lori Mueller, Co-President
Bowler Education Association
Wisconsin Education Association Council

Steve Owens
President, Washington Central Education Association, VT
Secretary-Treasurer, Vermont NEA

Lara Slesar, President
Montpelier Education Association
Vermont NEA

All organizational affiliations of the signers are for identification purposes only.