



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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November 18, 2010

Tufts Employees Association
15 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Tufts Employees Association (TEA),

I am writing to thank you for the work you are doing to form a union of the clerical and technical staff at Tufts University. I am pleased to hear that the movement at Tufts has grown more dynamic.

As a long-time State Representative and now State Senator whose district includes the Tufts campus, as well as mother of an alumnus, I have long had an interest in the Tufts community. I believe that the union organizing efforts are very positive. Unions play a crucial role in defending worker rights and in giving workers a voice, but more broadly in resisting the growing gap in income, wealth and power between the very rich and the rest of us. TEA embodies many of the values Tufts espouses, such as active citizenship. Tufts' commitment to those values makes the university a positive force in my district and in Greater Boston.

I am happy to hear that activists now feel safe enough to take a public position on forming a union at Tufts. The best unions are democratic and promote participation. Because they feel freer and more comfortable discussing the idea of a union, I hear that activists are more able to these discussions than they were even a year ago. This development is good news for both TEA and Tufts.

I will be interested to hear of your progress, and wish you well in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia D. Jehlen".

Patricia D. Jehlen
STATE SENATOR