

July 11, 2008

Attention: President Reg Weaver
National Education Association
1201 16th Street NW
Washington DC 20036

Dear President Weaver:

I have been a member of the NEA since 1984 and have served at the local level in various positions. Since 1990, I have also been actively involved at the regional and state levels and have been an NEA delegate since 1997. These involvements are in addition to my teaching responsibilities as an intervention specialist, my service as a member of our local school district LPDC, plus, family commitments and church/community ministries.

Please accept my deepest appreciation for the fact that you stood firm on the principles of Resolution J-3 in allowing the conservative voice to be heard during discussion of Resolution I-15 (Family Planning). Your remarks prior to the discussion set the atmosphere for fair treatment and for free expression of ideas. This same atmosphere was evident throughout the entire Representative Assembly. In addition, I am grateful for the open door policy and the opportunities conservatives have experienced during our meetings with you and other NEA officers at the NEA headquarters in Washington DC in conjunction with the annual March for Life in January. I have also noticed increased respect for the free expression of ideas at both my state affiliate Representative Assemblies and during the NEA-RA state caucus meetings.

Another item still needs to be addressed, however. Despite General Counsel's remarks regarding NEA's position on abortion, I, along with many others, am very concerned that there are indications NEA maintains a strong pro-abortion position. As long as the union continues to align itself with, and partner with, organizations that have a strong pro-abortion philosophy, conservatives will continue to perceive the union itself as pro-abortion. Relating to this, I am trusting that NEA will develop policies and procedures so situations like the recent incident featuring late-term abortionist George Tiller in the NEA Headquarters building will never occur again.

President Weaver, I wish you the best in your retirement and trust that the respect and open door policy you have helped establish for conservative members of NEA will continue with President-elect Dennis Van Roekel.

Blessings,

Miss Connie Bancroft
NEA Delegate from Ohio

cc: President-elect Dennis Van Roekel
OEA Officers & Executive Director
Ohio NEA Directors