



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 24, 2025

Superintendent Madeline Negron
New Haven Public Schools
54 Meadow Street
New Haven, CT 06519

Dear Superintendent Negron,

We write to express our disappointment to learn that paraeducators in New Haven have been working without a contract since July 1, 2023; they are the lowest paid workers in the New Haven Board of Education. These are members of AFSCME Council 4, Local 3429. We were informed that an arbitration award is pending. To avoid an arbitration decision that would be divisive, Local 3429 submitted an offer on March 10, 2025, to Attorney Thomas Mooney. We believe that negotiations are best held between the Board of Education and Local Union rather than a neutral third party.

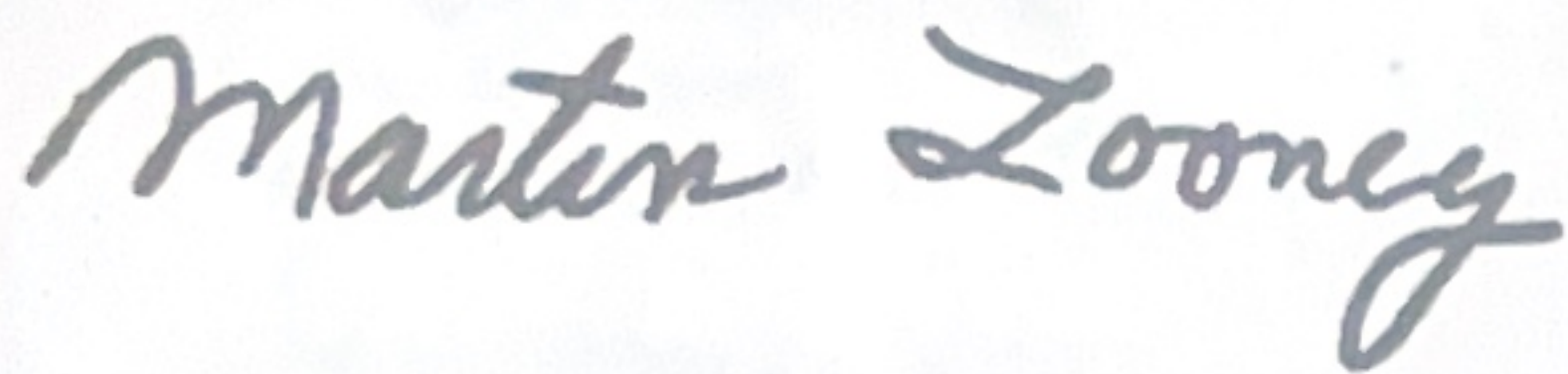
Our delegation works diligently in the General Assembly to secure funding for New Haven so that our constituents can receive the services they need which include livable wages. When we see attacks on workers nearly every day, it is important that we take a different path and work together for the best interests of our students and staff. We believe this means contracts that respect workers and provide them the ability to have a good quality of life.

We understand that a significant amount of effort has gone into negotiating this contract and the parties reached a TA. We also understand that Local 3429 members voted down the TA. We have been assured that there is interest in continuing negotiating to finalize an agreement before an arbitration decision is written. We believe that both sides can still come together in a unifying way and move forward in the best interest of our students.

~~Paraeducators~~ provide critical services to our students and provide a solid foundation to successful programming in a variety of settings based on the individual needs of our students. As our paraeducators are underpaid and struggle to afford their basic needs, it is important that our state does the best it can to ease their financial burdens, and the Board of Education should consider the same and agree to the settlement offer from Local 3429 before an arbitration decision is issued.

We ask that you keep us apprised of the developments and provide details of your decision on this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Martin Looney

State Senate District 11




Senator Gary Winfield

State Senate District 10



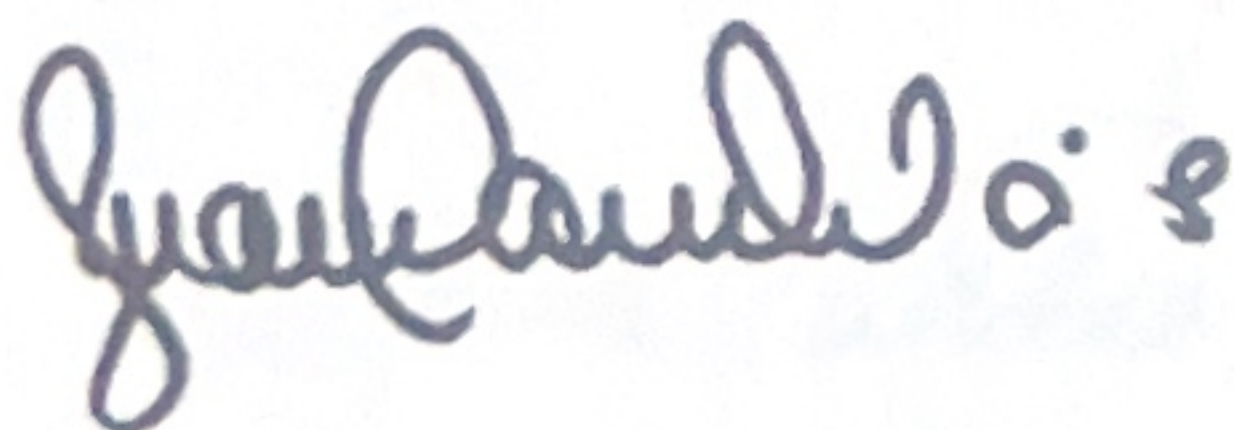
Representative Steven Winter

State Representative District 94



Representative Patricia Dillon

State Representative District 92



Representative Juan Candelaria

State Representative District 95



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE AL PAOLILLO
97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 5008
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Al.Paolillo@cga.ct.gov

DEPUTY SPEAKER

MEMBER
FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

March 14, 2025

Superintendent Madeline Negrón
New Haven Public Schools
54 Meadow Street
New Haven, CT 06519

Dear Superintendent Negrón,

We are writing to express our disappointment to learn that paraeducators in New Haven have been working without a contract since July 1, 2023; they are the lowest paid workers in the New Haven Board of Education. These are members of AFSCME Council 4, Local 3429. We were informed that an arbitration award is pending. To avoid an arbitration decision that would be divisive, Local 3429 submitted an offer on March 10, 2025, to Attorney Thomas Mooney. We believe that negotiations are best held between the Board of Education and Local Union rather than a neutral third party.

Our delegation works tirelessly in the General Assembly to secure funding for New Haven so that our constituents can receive the services they need which include livable wages. When we see attacks on workers nearly every day, it is important that we take a different path and work together for the best interests of our students and staff. We believe this means contracts that respect workers and provide them the ability to have a good quality of life.

We understand that a tremendous amount of effort has gone into negotiating this contract and the parties reached a TA. We also understand that Local 3429 members voted down the TA. We have been assured that there is interest in continuing negotiating to finalize an agreement before an arbitration decision is written. We believe that both sides can still come together in a unifying way and move forward in the best interest of our students.

Paraeducators provide critical services to our students and provide a solid foundation to successful programming in a variety of settings based on the individual needs of our students. As our paraeducators are underpaid and struggle to afford their basic needs, it is important that our state does the best it can to ease their financial burdens, and the Board of Education should consider the same and agree to the settlement offer from Local 3429 before an arbitration decision is issued.

We ask that you keep us apprised of the developments and provide details of your decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

State Representative Al Paolillo
97th District

State Representative Toni Walker
93rd House District



State of Connecticut
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-
591

June 03, 2025

Superintendent Madeline Negron and Members of the Board of Education New
Haven Public Schools
54 Meadow Street
New Haven, CT 06519

Dear Superintendent Negron and Board of Education Members,

We are writing to follow up on the letter we sent in March about the New Haven Paraeducator contract. We were made to understand that you did not negotiate with Local 3429 to avoid an arbitration decision and that an arbitrated award has been finalized.

We want to reiterate our support for the Paraeducators in New Haven who are the lowest paid workers in the New Haven Board of Education.

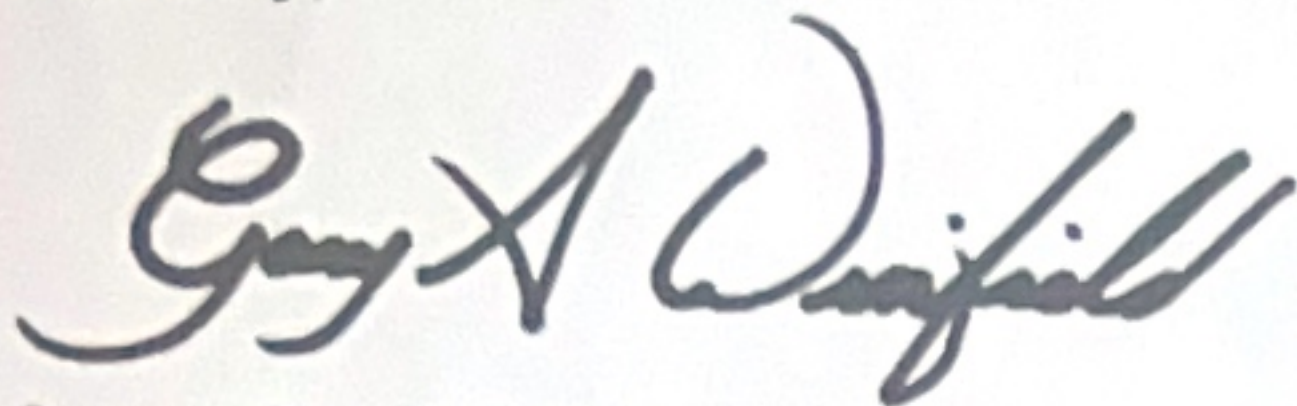
Paraeducators in New Haven are dedicated educators who support student achievement every day in our schools. Paraeducators provide critical education support to students that help provide a foundation for them to learn and be successful. They provide support in every aspect from one-on-one individual support for students to making sure that students are taken care of in every way. Yet, they remain underpaid and unable to afford basic needs and economic security that someone who works for our school system should have.

At the state level, we have worked to provide a Health Care Subsidy to help alleviate health insurance costs for Paraeducators so they can get the medical care they need. But, addressing wages meaningfully and supportively of our school Paraeducators is done through the Board of Education. Our delegation works diligently in the General Assembly to secure funding for New Haven Public Schools so our constituents can receive the services they need which include livable wages. However, wages for Paraeducators still continue to lag behind other workers in our schools which impacts morale and retention. Recently, Cafeteria Workers in New Haven Schools received a contract that improves wages by \$6 over the four-year agreement. We encourage you to use some of the funding that we secure for New Haven Public Schools to improve the wages of New Haven Paraeducators in a similar manner.

Accordingly, we have expectations that you help show the support and respect for Paraeducators that we have for them and meaningfully address wages of the Paraeducators in Local 3429.

We ask that you keep us apprised of developments on this matter as we partner to improve the lives of Paraeducators in our Public Schools.

Sincerely,



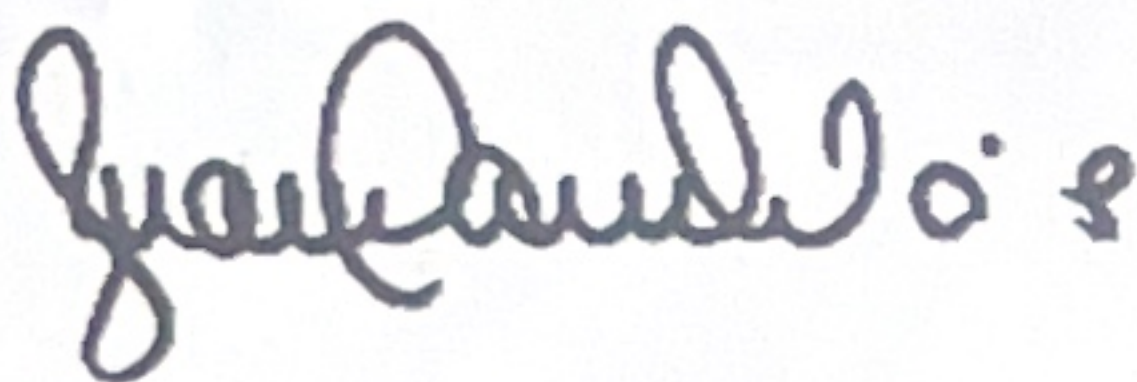
Senator Gary Winfield
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Representative District 94



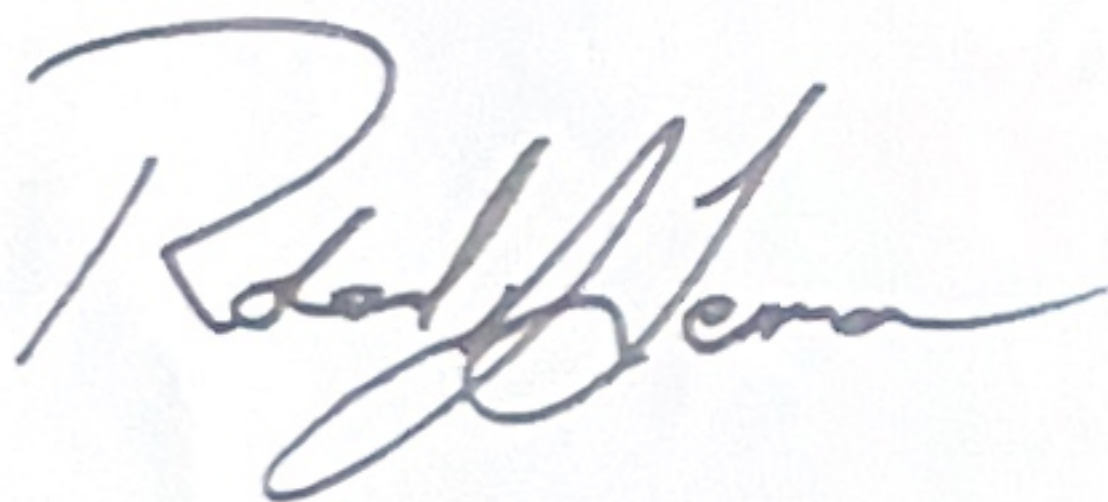
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Representative District 93



Representative Roland Lemar
State Representative District 96



Representative Al Paolillo
State Representative District 97