

August 19, 2021

Dear Colleague:

It's come to our attention in recent days that anti-union forces are trying to exploit the anxiety we're all feeling amidst an unprecedented public health crisis by urging members to drop their membership. This is reprehensible. But it's a reflection of what we face.

We are confident that you will see this for what it is – a shameless attempt to divide us at a time when so many Ohioans are united in their desire to make the health and safety of our students and fellow citizens a priority.

These messages are coming from the same people that gave us Senate Bill 5 – the law that would have gutted our collective bargaining rights if we had not risen up and overturned it at the ballot box in 2011. Their mission is to silence our voices as public educators and as advocates for our students and schools by taking away OUR power – the power to fight for the schools our students deserve; the power to fight for what our students need; and the power to fight for job protections, fair salaries, safe working conditions and the health care benefits we need to support ourselves and our families.

We're also aware of public record requests in some school districts for information on our members – where they live, where they work and their email addresses. This is an outrageous violation of our privacy rights and will not be tolerated.

Please know that we are actively monitoring the situation and ask that you share with us any communications you may have received. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for all that you're doing for our students and WEA in these challenging times!

Rob Earle and Steph Schmeltzer

Wadsworth Education Association Co-Presidents