



Alliance Statement
Regarding Superior Court Ruling
UTLA Denied Request to Deny Alliance First Amendment Rights
10-29-15

Alliance will, of course, respect the Superior Court's decision as we have always respected our teachers' rights to freely and openly discuss unionization. We are not surprised that the union made this last-ditch legal maneuver to salvage their campaign. After months of aggressive campaigning and trying to convince Alliance teachers to join their union, the vast majority of our educators have no interest in aligning themselves with UTLA, a union which has been openly hostile to charter schools.

We are grateful that the Court recognized the rights of Alliance to exercise its First Amendment rights and be a part of the conversation about unionization in denying UTLA's request for a gag order against Alliance school leaders and management. UTLA is one of the largest and most powerful political organizations in the state and one that has long been openly hostile to the very existence and expansion of charter schools like Alliance. We find the union's attempt to stifle opposing points of view to be an intimidation tactic and a true reflection of their lack of willingness to engage in an open and honest debate.

The Court also rejected UTLA's baseless claim that Alliance retaliated against a teacher for union activity. This failed claim is an attack on the integrity of Alliance leadership. No one at Alliance has or would ever make a personnel decision based on a teacher's views on unionization. In fact, many UTLA petition signers have been offered (and taken on) leadership positions and stipend-earning career ladder opportunities in their schools and across Alliance.

We remain disheartened by the divisive, dishonest, and disruptive tactics used by UTLA that, to date, have put adult interest above those of our students. One piece of alleged "evidence" included in the union's legal claim is the absurd suggestion that school leaders standing in front of their schools at the end of the school day supervising students as they left the campus constitutes "surveillance" because a union organizer stood across the street and was in direct line of sight of school administrators who are overseeing student safety at the end of the school day.

We call on UTLA to respect school leaders' responsibility to effectively run their schools and ensure the safety of students. We also call on UTLA to respect the rights of all Alliance teachers to be heard, including those who disagree with them.

As we have said repeatedly throughout the process, we recognize the rights of our teachers to decide on their own--free from coercion from anyone--whether they want or do not want to form a union with UTLA. We continue to encourage Alliance educators to get all the facts so that they can make an educated and informed decision that is in the best interest of students and their own careers.

We are proud of our teachers, and we share their commitment to providing a high-quality education for all students. We remain steadfast in our commitment to always put the needs of students first.