



## Senate of Pennsylvania

April 13, 2026

Penn State University  
201 Old Main  
University Park PA 16802

Dear President Bendapudi, Chair Kleppinger, and members of the Board of Trustees:

We understand that the Graduate Assistants at Penn State University voted overwhelmingly in favor of forming their union – the Coalition of Graduate Employees at Penn State-UAW – in October 2025. We write to urge you to respect the results of their vote and cease any further legal challenges to the inclusion of Research Assistants in collective bargaining. We ask that you recognize the clear democratic voice of these workers and promptly bargain with all Penn State Graduate Assistants in good faith for a fair contract.

These employees' unionization effort followed a lawful, transparent process overseen by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board. After hearings and a university-wide vote on unionization, Graduate Assistants voted by a 90 percent margin in favor of union representation. This effort follows the successful unionization of tens of thousands of graduate student research and teaching assistants at many other public universities around the country, including in Pennsylvania. As elected leaders across Pennsylvania, we believe these workers bring great value to Penn State and to our Commonwealth, and that their democratic decision to form a union should be respected.

As Pennsylvania faces challenges to sustaining funding for the critical, groundbreaking research carried out by our great public universities like Penn State, it is especially important to refrain from expending any further resources challenging these workers' right to collective bargaining. We encourage you to embrace their organized voice as a productive partner in the fight to defend science funding, rather than continuing to challenge their democratic decision.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John I. Kane in black ink.

John I. Kane  
State Senator, 9<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Handwritten signature of Lisa M. Boscola in black ink.

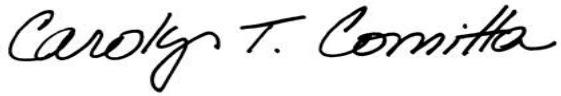
Lisa M. Boscola  
State Senator, 8<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Handwritten signature of Amanda M. Cappelletti in black ink.

Amanda M. Cappelletti  
State Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Handwritten signature of Maria Collett in black ink.

Maria Collett  
State Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Carolyn T. Comitta  
State Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Wayne D. Fontana  
State Senator, 42<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



Vincent J. Hughes  
State Senator, 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District



James Andrew Malone  
State Senator, 36<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Katie J. Muth  
State Senator, 44<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Steven J. Santarsiero  
State Senator, 10<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Judith L. Schwank  
State Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Christine M. Tartaglione  
State Senator, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



Marty Flynn  
State Senator, 22<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



Art Haywood  
State Senator, 4<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Timothy P. Kearney  
State Senator, 26<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Nick Miller  
State Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Nick Pisciotano  
State Senator, 45<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Nikil Saval  
State Senator, 1<sup>st</sup> Senate District



Sharif Street  
State Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



Lindsey M. Williams  
State Senator, 38<sup>th</sup> Senate District