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April 8, 2008

Mr. Bob Roman
Chicago DSA
1608 N Milwaukee - Room 403
Chicago, IL 60647

Dear Mr. Roman:

The SEIU Illinois State Council has been a long time supporter of the Debs-Thomas-Harrington Dinner. I am proud to have been honored by your organization. But I was disappointed to learn that your featured speaker this year is Rose Ann DeMoro.

Rose Ann DeMoro does not embody the values of DSA. As the head of the California Nurses Association, Rose Ann used the exact same tactics as corporate American in stopping Ohio workers from organizing. CNA ran an aggressive anti-union "vote no" campaign that ruined the opportunity of 8,000 healthcare workers at Catholic Healthcare Partners Ohio Hospitals to join SEIU. These workers would have voted under and employer code of conduct that prohibited employer interference at the workplace in these workers' decision. The code was negotiated with CHP after many years of a worker-led struggle for the right to vote under free and fair conditions. The agreement reflected a major breakthrough with a significant Catholic healthcare system.

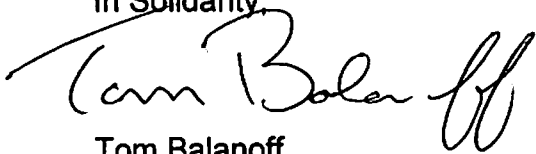
Unfortunately, we did not anticipate that the CNA would take the place of the National Right to Work Committee in launching a campaign to destroy this historic opportunity. It should be understood that CNA did not represent any workers in Ohio and had not been involved in an active organizing campaign at CHP when it poured resources into this shameful effort.

The ramifications go beyond SEIU's ability to organize members. The rhetoric and propaganda CNA used in Ohio hurts all unions in our efforts to win employer neutrality agreements and EFCA. The actions of CNA are consciously attempting to create confusion about the employee free choice among churches and potential allies. If CNA is successful in its efforts to equate neutrality and card check agreement as "sweetheart agreement" –which they obviously are not-it will divide labor's unity of EFCA. We stand on the verge of achieving a dream for American workers, the right to free choice to join a union. No individual affiliate should be permitted to undermine that effort.

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We are requesting that DSA do everything in your power to allow workers dreams to still come true by having a voice at work. We are requesting that you rescind your invitation of Rose Ann DeMoro to be your featured speaker at the Debs Dinner. Workers in Chicago are committed to all workers having a voice at work. We don't want to picket your event, but we can not allow Rose Ann DeMoro to speak in Chicago without educating the public of her anti worker agenda.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Balanoff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a stylized "B".

Tom Balanoff
President

TB:cb