



Assembly California Legislature

ROGER HERNÁNDEZ
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

August 13, 2014

Katrina Abston, Head of Schools
California Virtual Academies
2360 Shasta Way, Unit A
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Dear Ms. Abston:

Thank you for taking my call on Wednesday, August 6, 2014. I wanted to take this opportunity to follow-up with you and memorialize our conversation.

As we discussed, the employees of the California Virtual Academies (CAVA) have a legally-protected right to engage in collective bargaining under the California Educational Employment Rights Act (EERA) (Government Code Section 3540 et seq.).

This is a fundamental right that I expect all employers to uphold and respect. On July 15 of this year, the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) determined that teachers employed by CAVA had demonstrated majority support to form a union.

I would hope that CAVA would respect its employees' democratic decision and the determination made by PERB. However, as we discussed during the call, I am concerned by reports that CAVA has instead chosen to delay the process through lengthy legal maneuvers designed to delay certification of the collective bargaining representative. Again, I urge you to respect the fundamental rights of your employees and the decision made by PERB.

Finally, during the call you expressed concern and/or confusion as to why I would be contacting you regarding this matter. As a Member of the California State Assembly, my overarching role is to advocate for respect, dignity, and fair treatment for all Californians. In particular, as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment I take pride in my role in ensuring that California's labor laws are being respected and adhered to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Hernández".

ROGER HERNÁNDEZ, Chair
Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment