

June 18, 2013

Park Geun-hye
President
Blue House Cheong Wa Dae
1 Cheongwadae-ro, Jongro-gu
Seoul 110-820
Republic of Korea
E-mail: webmaster@president.go.kr

Dear President Park Geun-hye:


On behalf of the 1.5 million members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), we are writing in support of the Korean Public and Social Services and Transportation Workers' Union, Education Workers Solidarity Division (KPTU-EdSol).

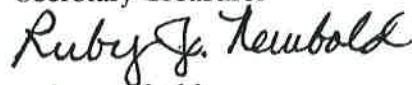
KPTU-EdSol is leading the fight to improve the professional lives of more than 250,000 education support workers in South Korea. We know that school support workers are the foundation of education, and they play a vital role in improving the quality of the institutions in which they serve. They are the lifeline of our schools and protect and enrich their students' lives every day.

We stand in strong solidarity with KPTU-EdSol in its drive to maintain members' rights in the workplace. We know that ultimate success in their struggle—for fair wages and benefits, and recognition and respect for trade union rights—is well-deserved, but long overdue. Blatant discrimination against education support workers in terms of salary, working conditions and seniority must end. We call on your government to acknowledge the vital work of KPTU-EdSol's members, and negotiate with them on the basis of what is just for workers and what is best for students.

On June 22, KPTU-EdSol will hold a national rally in defense of the rights of education support workers. On that day, the AFT will stand by KPTU-EdSol, and will not forget its members who each day serve their schools and communities with pride and care.

In unity,


Dr. Lorretta Johnson
Secretary-Treasurer


Ruby Newbold

Chair, Paraprofessional and School-Related Personnel PPC

LJ/RN : bsc opeiu#2 afl-cio

cc: H.E. Choi Youngjin, Ambassador E. and P.
KPTU-EdSol
Public Services International

American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Healthcare

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