NEA (National Education Association), Dennis Van Roekel, president  
AFT (American Federation of Teachers), Randi Weingarten, president

SVIZ (ESTUS) supports American colleagues in their fight against elimination of collective bargaining rights

Dear Dennis and Randi,

The Education, Science and Culture Trade Union of Slovenia (ESTUS) strongly supports the teachers and education workers, not only in Wisconsin but all around USA, in their fight against the decision of the Governor of Wisconsin to unilaterally eliminate the right of teachers’ and other public sector unions to collective bargaining.

ESTUS strongly believes that the Governor must withdraw the budget bill which is likely to deny collective-bargaining rights to all public-sector workers, which is unacceptable for the American teachers. Teachers are not the cause of the financial crisis and dealing with the state’s fiscal problems (even though it has been proven that this attack on unions’ rights has nothing to do with the budget) cannot be done through repealing of the rights of workers. ESTUS would like to remind the authorities in Wisconsin and other states that education is a public good – it is a good not only meant for the individual but for the society as a whole and the attempt to exploit the fiscal crisis for the purpose of abolishing unions’ right to collective bargaining and for introducing privatization into the public sector is unacceptable.

We at ESTUS express our great solidarity with NEA and AFT in defending the right of all teachers and other public sector employees to have a voice in collective bargaining regarding employment-related benefits and to preserve education as a public right.

In solidarity,

Branimir Štrukelj,  
ESTUS General Secretary