

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services and
Education
Subcommittee on Homeland Security



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Democratic Senior Whip
Whip, Congressional Hispanic Caucus

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

34TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

July 11, 2006

Deborah Burger, R.N.
President
California Nurses Association
2000 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Burger:

I am writing to express my strong support for the California Nurses Association (CNA) and the National Nurses Organizing Committee (NNOC) as you continue to fight for the rights of working women and men throughout the nation.

As we await the outcome of the National Labor Relation Board's (NLRB) Kentucky River decision, I want to assure you that I stand with you and all of the hard-working Americans this decision will affect.

Employer groups ranging from chambers of commerce to the American Hospital Association have filed briefs with the NLRB urging them to adopt a broad interpretation that would allow employers to reclassify many employees as supervisors, in effect shrinking or wiping out existing bargaining units, and stripping federal protection for the freedom to organize for hundreds of thousands of non-union workers. This would be disastrous for U.S. workers.

As the CNA and the NNOC have shown, a strong union that provides a strong voice for working people benefits everyone. In California, the CNA has advocated and fought for the nation's first nurse-to-patient ratios, which have brought registered nurses back to the bedside, easing the shortage, and at the same time improved the quality of care for countless thousands of hospital patients. In Chicago, the CNA has provided strong representation in collective bargaining that has allowed registered nurses at Cook County Hospital to fight for their patients' care, as well as advocate for better working conditions for nurses.

I am watching with pride as the NNOC carries that message throughout the country, and I will be with you in spirit on July 11th as you and thousands of other working women and men take your message to the street: "The right to union representation is a fundamental democratic right, now and always, for all the people."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucille Roybal-Allard".

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress