

BEDFORD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
POLITICAL ACTION REPORT – 12/18/13  
Submitted by: Mimi Warren

**This just in from Congresswoman Nita Lowey:**

By now, I am sure you have heard that we have reached a deal on the budget. But, there is one last thing that the deal doesn't include for which I need your urgent help.

Millions of Americans will be left out in the cold at the end of the year because Congress has still not taken action to extend unemployment insurance for those who have been looking for work for more than six months. Will you join me in our urgent call to demand the GOP House leadership take action before they leave on vacation?

It's quite simply unconscionable! We must deliver a strong and powerful message to GOP leaders that we want action now to protect the men and women who still need jobs. [Please stand with us today.](#)

The next few hours are critical.

Onward,

Nita

Please consider clicking on the link above to sign Nita's petition or calling Nita's office to see how to support her efforts to extend unemployment benefits

202-225-6506 – Washington

914-428-1707 – White Plains

**Westchester Putnam Central Labor Body:**

AFL-CIO: current campaign, called Citizenship Now is a blueprint for citizenship. Please consider visiting the AFL-CIO website and signing the petition to Speaker Boehner which outlines a pathway to citizenship, the goal of which is to protect US workers and end exploitation of immigrant workers. For more information, please follow these links:

<http://www.aflcio.org/Issues/Immigration>

<http://www.aflcio.org/content/download/60511/854621/UnityFrameworkAug2009.pdf>

Did you know many seasonal farm workers in California make about \$162 dollar a week and can't afford to buy the produce they pick?

Social Justice: Black Friday protest at Walmart: union workers, community activists and college students attended the Black Friday protest at Walmart in White Plains. College students learned of the protest through social media and came out in force to support workers' rights. Please remember to "like" the Westchester Putnam Central Labor Council on FaceBook.

Shoe Donation: Once again, we had an OUTSTANDING response to the shoe donation request from the Central Labor Body. We must have set a new record this year and definitely outshined all other donations. We gratefully acknowledge Mt. Kisco, Fox

Lane High School, Pound Ridge and West Patent schools. The Executive Board of the Labor Council sends very sincere thanks to BTA for our generosity along with best wishes for the holidays and the New Year.

Trans Pacific Partnership Update: As reported a few months ago, the TPP has been described as NAFTA on steroids. The TPP is being negotiated in secret. Most members of congress did not know about the TPP until Labor, environmental and community groups exposed the TPP for what it is: a trade deal for the 1% by the 1%. Congress members Nita Lowey and Eliot Engle have signed on to 2 letters supporting the principles that Labor illuminated concerning the TPP. Sean Patrick Maloney has also signed on to 2 additional letters. Maloney is the only one of the three who stated he will vote against the TPP.

**Of the TPP's 29 draft chapters, only 5 deal with traditional trade issues. Most would set rules on non-trade matters that affect our daily lives: food safety, internet freedom, medicine costs, job off-shoring, financial regulation, environmental regulation, and more.**

**Please: after the holidays call members of congress and tell them to vote against Fast Track and TPP.**

**The number for the House of Representatives is (202) 224-3121.**

**NYSUT:** Political Action Chairs are currently meeting with local legislators to review their voting records for the past year. NYSUT has reviewed each vote for each person and legislators have been rated on accessibility and voting records. Senator Ball has received a grade of 3, which equals “good.” Assemblyman Buchwald received a grade of 5, which equals “excellent” and Assemblyman Katz also received a grade of 3.

Please continue to visit [www.NYSUT.org](http://www.NYSUT.org) for more information and to send FAXES to our Legislators. Your efforts make a HUGE difference!

\*\*\* Please consider buying union products this holiday season. Go to [www.unionlabel.org](http://www.unionlabel.org) for a list of union companies and their products.

- [www.ufcw.org/about\\_ufcw/ufcw\\_made\\_products/](http://www.ufcw.org/about_ufcw/ufcw_made_products/) - Other food products to keep up with your entertaining needs
- [www.unionplus.org/union-made/beers](http://www.unionplus.org/union-made/beers) - After a full day of shopping, wind down with a union made beer
- <https://afl-cio.imagepointe.com> - Union made items with union logos – perfect gift for your union brothers and sisters
- [www.labor-religion.org/fairtrade-main.htm](http://www.labor-religion.org/fairtrade-main.htm) - All purchases support the labor religion coalition.

Also, please support the following union-friendly malls:

Cross County  
Jefferson Valley

