

See the list of signatories to our public letter to TFA: <http://tinyurl.com/TFA-Letter-Full>

2/12/19

TFA Bay Area:

Thank you for meeting with our group of concerned alumni yesterday. Our takeaway from the conversation was that because TFA is an AmeriCorps program, corps members can not participate in a strike and that TFA has left it up to corps members to determine individual responses to this context.

Whereas TFA invited young people into a profession based on an expectation of a supplemental education award via AmeriCorps membership without explicitly informing them of the limits this affiliation places on their ability to participate in labor actions, we demand that Teach For America cover the lost award amount for any corps member who temporarily unenrolls in AmeriCorps so as to stand on the picket line during the anticipated teacher strike in Oakland. This action taken by Teach For America would show seriously that it recognizes corps member obligation to stand in solidarity with their colleagues, school community, and advocates for fully funding public education.

In the long term, Teach For America must rethink its relationship to AmeriCorps, and acknowledge that in maintaining this affiliation they are recruiting a subset of teachers who will be unable to fully participate in labor actions among their colleagues, effectively serving as scabs during a strike.

If Teach For America continues to maintain its relationship with AmeriCorps, future corps members need to understand and be reminded of this context during the application process, matriculation, and first year of service. Without this explicit messaging, Teach For America is effectively participating in union busting as it recruits teachers who can not participate in labor actions to work in unionized workplaces.

Sincerely,

The Coordinating Committee of the TFA Alumni Letter re: the Oakland Strike