



June 23, 2026

Aaron McClendon
Associate Director
NJEA Government Relations
180 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Mr. McClendon,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the New Jersey Education Association's 2026 endorsement process.

I have a long record of supporting organized labor and our educators going all the way back to my days as a Cape May County Commissioner when I led the fight to establish a community college there. Over my career in public service there are hundreds of examples where I supported organized labor and even walked the picket line with them. That always has and always will be the case - our rank and file educators in the classroom will always have my support.

While I have been appreciative of the NJEA's support, or at least neutrality, in some previous years, it has become increasingly clear that to seek your endorsement at this time would almost certainly be a fruitless endeavor given the current unfortunate realities.

I do appreciate your offer. However I must respectfully decline your invitation.

Please know that my door will always be open in the hope that we can find common ground in the future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please contact my Campaign Manager Ron Filan by emailing Ron@VanDrewForCongress.com.

Sincerely,

Jeff Van Drew

Jeff Van Drew
United States Congressman