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C.T. Purdom, President  
Lee Ann Prielipp, Vice President  
James S. Seibert, Executive Director

April 9, 1996

Carmen Quesada  
NEA GR Denver  
1200 17th Street Suite 620  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Carmen:

I have reviewed with WEA leaders and staff our discussion and your letter in response to WEA's request for financial assistance for the campaign to defeat the voucher and charter school initiatives on the ballot in Washington, and WEA's participation in the unified campaign as an NEA targeted state.

Following our review of the circumstances, we have decided against the strategy you suggested of planning/initiating our campaign effort on the basis of \$150,000 from NEA with the option to resubmit a request in August based on information that may be available regarding the campaign efforts of the proponents for the initiatives.

As you have acknowledged, WEA has committed significant time and effort to develop a comprehensive campaign plan for 1996 involving the initiatives, statewide offices, legislative races, the Congress and the Office of President. NEA has been involved with the effort from the outset. In recent years, WEA has contested initiatives dealing with contribution limits and restrictions on collecting political funds (1992) and spending limits and tax restriction (1993). In both instances we were unsuccessful in part because we embraced a strategy of waiting until we knew the extent of the proponent's effort. We do not intend to follow such a strategy in 1996.

WEA does not believe the campaign coalition against the two initiatives can delay, until August, a decision regarding what resources are necessary, nor can we delay in moving forward with our effort inside the coordinated campaign. Accordingly, we reiterate our plan to seek additional funding support through the NEA Executive Committee at its meeting on April 29-30. Our failure to do so would raise internal questions regarding our organizational commitment to defeat the initiatives and/or to elect pro-education candidates to office.

Sincerely,

C.T. Purdom  
President

James S. Seibert  
Executive Director

cc: NEA Directors Washington  
WEA Board of Directors  
Campaign Work Teams  
Nelson Okino  
Mary Elizabeth Teasley