

HLS STUDENTS SUPPORT DINING HALL WORKERS!

Dear friends, classmates, and colleagues,

We the undersigned student organizations of Harvard Law School declare our support for and solidarity with the Harvard University Dining Service (HUDS) workers in their struggle for a fair contract. These hard-working individuals take care of us and make us feel at home every single day, and have been part of this community for far longer than any of us students. Now the Harvard administration is slashing their healthcare benefits, and doubling-down on a system of cyclical lay-offs that leave most HUDS workers with no source of income for up to four months every year. The workers have been in negotiation with the administration since May, but the administration refuses to budge.

Despite the fact that HUDS workers earn a competitive hourly wage, the cyclical lay-offs (during which workers are prohibited from collecting unemployment benefits, due to Harvard's "non-profit" status) prevent the overwhelming majority of workers from earning a livable salary. When combined with the proposed healthcare cuts, this arrangement will push our community's most vulnerable members into poverty, and prevent them from taking care of their children and loved ones. We join our voices with those of HUDS workers in demanding an annual minimum salary of \$35,000, and equitable healthcare coverage. As students and student organizations, we support the HUDS workers wholeheartedly, and will continue to have their backs in their moment of vulnerability and struggle, just as they have always had ours.

It is unacceptable for workers to be left out in the cold while the administration raked in over \$7 billion dollars in the past three years alone. Harvard workers are the backbone of this institution, and represent some of the most socio-economically and racially oppressed members of our community. The HUDS struggle is a class struggle. The HUDS struggle is a racial justice struggle. Harvard students and workers are united, and we will not let the administration bully its own employees into accepting a contract that threatens them with constant economic insecurity. An attack on one part of the Harvard community is an attack on us all; and when our community is under attack, what do we do? Rise up and fight back!

Support the HUDS Strike! The ball is in the administration's court; all they have to do is pay workers a fair salary and provide the same healthcare they've been providing for the past six years. As the future lawyers and advocates of the world, it is our responsibility to follow in the courageous footsteps of Thurgood Marshall, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and other social justice trailblazers. We the students of Harvard Law School refuse to abandon HUDS workers in their struggle for justice!

In Solidarity,

Harvard National Lawyer's Guild, Students for Inclusion, Lambda, Harvard Law Justice for Palestine, Law and Behavioral Science, Unbound: Harvard Journal of the Legal Left, La Alianza, South Asian Law Students Association, Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, Project No One Leaves, Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

