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PRESS RELEASE

**WASHINGTON TEACHERS' UNION ANNOUNCES SECOND BIG WIN AFTER DECISION IN
MAYOR GRAY'S APPEAL AGAINST REINSTATEMENT OF UNFAIRLY OUSTED TEACHERS**

AFFIRMED: DCPS Ordered to Place Affected Teachers Back at Work and Restore All Back Pay

Washington, DC - Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) announced that it has won the appeal against DC Public Schools (DCPS) in the case of seventy-five unfairly terminated teachers. Without regard for due process, DCPS improperly dismissed these educators in 2008 during the probationary period for recent hires. On Friday, September 16, WTU received confirmation that the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) has ordered DCPS to restore the jobs and complete back pay of these wrongly fired teachers.

In 2008, WTU filed a grievance requesting that these terminations be rescinded and that these teachers' salaries, benefits and employment be restored. This grievance then went to arbitration, and the arbitrator ruled in favor of WTU. Since these teachers waited more than two years for a decision, it was also decided that they should receive complete back pay and benefits from DCPS. DCPS decided to appeal this decision, however, which may cost the school system as much as 7.5 million dollars.

"During this lengthy period, WTU remained steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that teachers' rights are protected. We were determined to see that these teachers were made whole. This is yet another case of justice delayed, but not denied," stated WTU President Nathan Saunders. "While it is unfortunate that Mayor Gray and Chancellor Henderson decided to appeal the earlier arbitration decision and did not immediately reinstate the teachers, we are extremely pleased with PERB's ruling. WTU remains confident that this decision will also positively affect another eighty-five teachers unfairly terminated in 2009. Twice we have been correct regarding the law and we have been upheld by the courts, arbitration, and now PERB. It is time to stop stalling and put good teachers back to work with deserving students and parents. I am calling on Mayor Gray and Chancellor Henderson to join us in this goal by caucusing immediately and moving forward without further delay."

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