November 21, 2019

Lawrence S. Bacow
Office of the President
Harvard University
Massachusetts Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear President Bacow:

We write regarding the ongoing contract negotiations between Harvard University and the Harvard Graduate Student Union-UAW (HGSU-UAW). It is our understanding that over 90% of the members of HGSU-UAW have authorized a strike and set a strike deadline of December 3, 2019. We believe this strike would be detrimental to students, workers, and community members, and we therefore urge you to engage in a good faith effort to reach a fair agreement before the strike deadline.

Harvard University’s teaching and research programs are pillars of our community and beyond, and we commend your administration for agreeing in May 2018 to recognize the union and bargain in good faith for a first contract with HGSU-UAW. Your decision to bargain has set Harvard apart from many other institutions of higher education, and we ask that you continue to set the bar by negotiating a first contract that will ensure fair treatment and strong workplace protections for workers, as well as an uninterrupted education for your students.

At a time when the Trump Administration has been relentless in its efforts to eliminate workers’ statutory right to organize and unionize, we must be deliberate in our steadfast support for our union workers.

We look forward to a fair outcome for both Harvard University and its student workers.

Sincerely,

Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress