

We Need Each Other

I pride myself on being a person that is independent and able to do heavy lifting in my life. Yet when it comes to moving the heavy couch in my living room for I am dependent on the help of another person for sure! We need other people to get through situations in our daily lives-both the easy tasks and those jobs that can seem to be insurmountable. I have been reminded of that in our union work lately. A huge busload of MSEA representatives from the West went to Annapolis and lobbied our state legislators to support bills that benefit education. Alone this job is tough, but when a group from 5 different counties walk into State Senators' and Delegates' offices and hold confident conversations about what our school's need it feels less stressful and builds unity. Another moment was during a meeting with an MD 6 candidate where multiple counties were represented. The picture of our school districts was clearly painted throughout the time spent together. The candidate walked away knowing how serious our message is in the West-support for school district funding is vital for the success of all other industry, manufacturing, companies, and communities. Schools is where it all begins.

Unity and solidarity were shown locally when the ACEA membership joined together to express their disappointment in the elected BOE's actions at their March meeting. Members wore black on April 2nd, attended the BOE meeting in full force joined by our AFSME brothers and sisters, and spoke bravely about how their viewpoints on teachers are misguided. The results were almost instantaneous and again highlighted the power of belonging to the union.

Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." I encourage you to join in the work and don't try to be a lone wolf. If you have a need, reach out. If you want to see our schools become a better place to work and learn, join in. If you feel like you are trying to move a heavy couch on your own, don't do it. ACEA and MSEA are here as a partner to do the "heavy lifting" with you, and we are only a call or email away.