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**The Washington Teachers' Union Filed Lawsuit This Week Against DCPS
Over the Dismissal of More Than 70 Probationary Teachers**

Washington, DC – The Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) has filed a lawsuit against DC Public Schools (DCPS) over the school system's dismissal of what is believed to be more than 70 probationary teachers. This lawsuit asserts that many teachers were performing satisfactorily by DCPS standards, yet DCPS terminated them without warning before the start of school.

The WTU lawsuit seeks to reverse this action so that the parties can resolve the pending grievance over the process DCPS should use in terminating these, and similarly situated, teachers. In the lawsuit, the WTU asks the court to enter a temporary restraining order reinstating the employment of the more than 70 probationary teachers terminated by DCPS.

“Even though these teachers were meeting the expectations of their probationary period, DCPS terminated them without providing them the due process rights and procedures guaranteed in the WTU/DCPS collective bargaining agreement,” said WTU President George Parker. “One of our main responsibilities, as a union, is to ensure that our members have due process and rights of appeal against arbitrary and capricious actions by DCPS central administrators and local school principals.”

In the past, when DCPS terminated probationary teachers, DCPS gave reasons for its actions and notified teachers of their negotiated right to grieve these terminations. Through this lawsuit, the WTU seeks to halt DCPS's improper action in failing to follow its procedures, return these teachers to the classroom, and give students a sound and steady start to the school year.

“These actions have violated the terms of our agreement and left many of our members suddenly without employment and without an explanation at the start of the school year,” Parker said. In addition, he stated, they further illustrate the importance and necessity of due process and appeals rights to eliminate unfair and unwarranted termination of teachers.

The Washington Teachers' Union (WTU), representing more than 4,000 DC public schools teachers, is dedicated to improving the quality of support, resources, compensation and working environment for DCPS teachers so that they can provide a quality education for all District of Columbia public school children.

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