

'A Union of Professionals'

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AFT Local 1581
AFL-CIO

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Nerissa Bretania Underwood, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Guam Department of Education
P.O. Box DE
Agana, Guam 96932

Dear Dr. Underwood,

Buenas Yan Hafa Adai!!! A few months ago you and I discussed implementing a plan to ensure that every child in our public school system have an annual TB test. The most recent outbreak at Maria Ulloa elementary school is just another reminder of how important it is that all of our children, faculty and staff are protected from this hideous disease.

With the majority of our students families struggling just to makes ends meet, we both know that it is not only impossible for us to expect families to bare this additional burden but I believe it would be immoral as well. Fortunately, I believe that if we marshal the resources of not only DOE's health care professionals, but enlist the assistance of DPHSS, GMH, Community Health Centers, and the nursing programs at GCC and UOG we can make this a reality at little or no additional cost to the Department. This will have the additional benefit of providing the employees of DOE their TB tests at no cost as well.

Over the last few years GFT has done our part by offering free TB tests to our members and their families every year. While this program has been very successful at saving our members money it hasn't really put a dent in solving the problem. Every year at least one school has an outbreak, which interrupts learning time and literally endangers the health of hundreds of men, women and children.

Together we can work collectively to end this scourge and do our part to make our island a healthier place to live. Therefore, I propose that we form a committee made up of our school health professionals, experts from public health and school administrators to work out the logistics.

Si Yu'os Mar'ase,
Together We Win

Matt Rector
President
GFT, Guam's Local Union

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