

Letter to MLSA-AFTMA-Petition

Subject:

Call to action: Sign petition ASAP and support BPL Professional Staff Association member denied usage of our extended sick leave fund!

Hello fellow union members and supporters,

The unionized staff of the Boston Public Library need your help! A member of the BPL Professional Staff Association, Eve, had her request to withdraw hours from our sick bank denied by Boston Public Library management and City of Boston Office of Labor Relations. Details about how you can help are at the end of this email, but **you can also [jump to the public petition here](#) and sign ASAP!**

BPL Professional Staff Association, MLSA Local 4928, AFT Librarian and union member, Eve has worked for Boston Public Library for 12 years and is deeply committed to her work. In 2019, Eve was diagnosed with breast cancer. Today, her diagnosis is stage 4, metastatic breast cancer; a terminal diagnosis. Since her diagnosis, Eve has had to rely on the hours donated by PSA members to our Extended Sick Leave Fund, or “sick bank,” after she’s used all of her own leave. She needs these hours to be able to attend doctor’s appointments and pursue treatment without loss of pay.

In November 2024, Eve submitted a request to PSA’s Extended Sick Leave Fund Committee. They approved the request, but Boston Public Library leadership and City of Boston Office of Labor Relations denied it. Denying her time from the sick bank will not make Eve’s illness go away. It will not make her need any less time off for doctor’s appointments, treatments, or days where she simply cannot get out of bed. It will just make sure that while she is worrying about eventually dying of cancer, she’ll also have to worry about paying rent.

On Tuesday, January 14, members from BPLPSA and AFSCME 1526 delivered a petition to BPL President David Leonard and the Board of Trustees signed by over 200 staff members demanding that Eve be granted the hours that she requested from the PSA sick bank. Unfortunately, David did not want to discuss the issues that led to its creation or any possible solutions to support our committed colleague.

This coming Tuesday, February 4, members of the PSA Executive Board are attending the BPL Board of Trustees meeting to present the public petition (already signed by over 2000 supporters) and talk about why BPL leadership’s decision is so harmful. Having a long list of members of the public who have signed in support gives us more leverage. The overwhelming number of staff that signed the original petition should have been enough, and we’re deeply disappointed it wasn’t. By responding to our petition with a mere acknowledgement that it had

been received and then taking no action demonstrates that BPL leadership refuses to take the will of their staff members seriously.

How you can help!

Add your name to [this public petition](#) demanding that Eve be granted her hours and BPL leadership work with the PSA Executive Board to prevent further denials of sick bank time in the future. We're trying to get as many signatures as possible before the Trustees meeting on Tuesday. **Please also share the link to the petition with your friends, family, colleagues... anyone you think would support our cause!** They do not have to live in Boston or be associated with the BPL - the more names, the stronger the impact. **You can also amplify our posts about the issue on social media ([Instagram](#); [Twitter](#))!**

Thank you for your support!

The Executive Board and members of BPL PSA, MLSA Local 4928 AFT-MA