



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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California Federation of Teachers Responds to Lawsuit on School Funding

Statement of Joshua Pechthalt, president of the California Federation of Teachers, in response to the lawsuit filed yesterday by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and the California School Boards Association (CSBA) regarding education funding:

“The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) supports the protection of public education funding. But we need to think more broadly about the reforms and revenues needed to adequately fund teaching and learning. Some advocates for education have been forced into lawsuits and other side routes to potential funding by the refusal of just over one third of the state Legislature to take any responsibility to fund the services we need, such as education of our children. A minority of Legislators can block the provision of these services due to the undemocratic 2/3 requirement for the Legislature to pass any taxes.

The Republican members of the Legislature had several opportunities to fund education either by simply extending temporary taxes or passing a variety of fair taxes such as AB 1130, a ‘millionaires’ tax, which would have taxed the top 1% of income earners. Instead, they chose to impose drastic cuts on public education, which has already been underfunded for years.

The public should know that Republicans in the Legislature have a different priority than the rest of us: to defund public education and other services in order to serve a ‘no new taxes’ pledge instead of serving the needs of the people.”

For more information please visit www.cft.org.