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## Resolution in Support of April 21 Sacramento Rally for California's Future

Whereas, the governor and a minority of legislators are seeking \$20 billion in budget cuts to schools, parks, libraries, safety net services and other services. These cuts threaten California's long-term prosperity and are a departure from the core values that made California the engine that drives America's economy; and

Whereas, the March for California's Future is about reclaiming California's promise and defending the American dream. We must restore quality public education and public services for every Californian, a government and economy that serves us all and a fair tax system to fund California's future; and

Whereas, these cuts are not one-year, temporary cuts. Their impact will haunt California for a generation.

- School children do not get to retake the third grade even if their classroom was too crowded and unruly for them to learn.
- Families who file for bankruptcy because they can't afford their child's medical bills do not get their life savings back.
- The pain of seeing a disabled loved one forced into a state institution never goes away.
- Crime victims hurt by convicted felons released from prison too soon do not become unvictimized; and

Whereas, contrary to claims by the governor, California does not have a spending problem. California has the third fewest state employees in the nation in proportion to its population. It actually ranks near the bottom in education and social spending per capita; and

Whereas, it should come as no surprise that only Mississippi eighth graders read at a lower level than California eighth graders; and

Whereas, the cuts being enacted across the state don't remove waste or inefficiency. They cut into basic core services we all depend on, rich and poor alike. In Sacramento, the municipal fire department is mothballing fire trucks. The governor is considering releasing 20,000 convicted felons into our communities; and

Whereas, we depend on government to keep us safe. We should close tax loopholes for the wealthy, not fire stations; and

Whereas, this fiscal crisis is the direct result of political decisions made in Sacramento over the past 15 years. We could solve this crisis by simply repealing tax breaks for the wealthy and tax loopholes written for special interests and large corporations.

- Just last year, the legislature passed more than \$2 billion in corporate giveaways in the midst of one of the worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression.
- Returning the very top tax brackets to 1991 levels for those making more than \$250,000 and \$500,000 per year could raise \$4-6 billion alone.

- Reassessing the values on nonresidential real estate would raise \$3 billion. The inequalities of the current tax system allow Disneyland to pay a nickel per square foot in property tax while the typical family is paying \$2 per square foot for their home. We should end this inequality.
- California is the only oil producing state that does not have a severance tax for oil drilled in the state. We could raise \$1.5 billion by ending this giveaway to Big Oil. Claims that it will stifle production are ludicrous. Alaska has the highest oil severance tax in the nation and is the top oil producing state in the country; and

Whereas, despite the common myth that California is anti-business, it still attracts more venture capital than any state. California is a leader in technology, fashion, entertainment and agriculture. We have the eighth largest economy in the world. The American Dream was practically invented in California. We accomplished that by building a world class education system. But that system has fallen into disrepair and the budget cuts the governor is pushing will only make it worse; and

Whereas, given that California is one of the richest states in the richest country in the world, it is unconscionable to auction off our children's future so we can maintain tax breaks for millionaires and large corporations. We should not balance the budget on the backs of our school children, the poor, the elderly, disabled and working families while not asking for an ounce of sacrifice from those who can most afford it; and

Whereas, many media outlets repeatedly report the claim that California has a highly progressive tax code. The idea that California soaks the rich has no truth in reality. In fact, studies have shown that California actually has a regressive tax code that taxes the poor at much higher rates. The typical tax payer making less than \$22,000 a year pays about 10.2 percent in combined state and local taxes; the wealthiest 1 percent, who make more than \$600,000 per year, typically only pay 7.4 percent, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy; and

Whereas, the fiscal crisis in Sacramento is the result of a dysfunctional system that allows a mere one-third of legislators to claim victory and block budgets with overwhelming bipartisan support. In a true democracy, the idea that gets the most votes wins. Californians overwhelmingly elect progressives, but in practice Sacramento governs like a red state. The current system is a subversion of democracy and the will of the people; and

Whereas, a group of marchers have set out to march from Bakersfield to Sacramento to publicize the inequities in the budget and the issues heretofore mentioned; and

Whereas, the San Francisco Labor Council has endorsed CFT's Fight for California's Future,

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council encourage its members to join the marchers on the last day, April 21, 2010, in Sacramento to rally for California's future.

Submitted by Gus Goldstein, AFT 2121, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on April 12, 2010.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson  
Executive Director