Resolution in Support of SF Catholic High School Teachers

WHEREAS, The Catholic Church and Archdiocese of San Francisco are part of the mosaic that make up the City of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Catholic High Schools in the City and County of San Francisco have provided our children with excellent education, preparing them as critical thinkers who celebrate the values of diversity, inclusivity, compassion, social responsibility and respect for the innate dignity of all individuals; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Catholic High Schools in the City of San Francisco has been made possible by the dedication and professionalism of the faculty and staff who have provided a safe and rich environment in which young people can explore and enjoy the free exchange of ideas, and discover their full potential; and

WHEREAS, The Archbishop of San Francisco’s recent proposals to change the Collective Bargaining Agreement by inserting language that subjects teachers to the “ministerial exception” represents an attack on the labor rights and legal protections of teachers; and

WHEREAS, The Archbishop of San Francisco’s recent proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook seek to impose his own morality standards on teachers, employees and students, that condemn homosexuality as contrary to “natural law,” contraception as “intrinsically evil,” and the use of assisted reproductive technology as “gravely evil,” among other clauses that require every staff member to “conduct their lives so as not to visibly contradict, undermine or deny these truths;” and

WHEREAS, such referenced “morality clauses” raise serious concerns about how they would impact a teacher’s personal life, and most importantly, the lives of the students they help to teach, nurture, and grow; and

WHEREAS, The proposed language affects not only educators, but students, their families and the entire San Francisco community; and

WHEREAS, These proposals are contrary to the shared San Francisco values of non-discrimination, women’s rights, inclusion, and equality for all humans; and

WHEREAS, The specific proposed language raises serious workers’ rights concerns around discrimination, the right to privacy, and the right for any individual to conduct their personal life however they choose, so long as it is not detrimental to their role as an educator; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is known around the world as a place of inclusion, tolerance, and acceptance for individuals and their life choices, regardless of religion, sex, sexual orientation, or beliefs;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Labor Council recognizes the extraordinary contribution of educators and administrators in our Catholic Schools in the lives of young men and women in the San Francisco Bay Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council expresses its profound concern about the Archbishop’s efforts to impose morality clauses and language in the contract and Faculty Handbook that threatens teachers, students and the San Francisco community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council will communicate with Archbishop Cordileone and urge him to withdraw the proposed language and to pursue contract terms with their educators that respect teachers’ labor, civil and human rights, inside and outside the workplace; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council urges its affiliates to demonstrate public support of San Francisco Catholic High School teachers as they seek a just settlement at the bargaining table.


Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

OPEIU 3 AFL-CIO 11