

Resolution in support of the March 4 , 2010 Day of Action Up to and Including a General Strike to Defend Public Education and Public Services

WHEREAS California public education from pre-kindergarten through college and adult ed, is facing its most serious crisis in years; with funding cuts, tuition increases, reduction of college seats available, furlough days for teachers and support staff, and layoffs of employees and outright closures of entire departments; and

WHEREAS California is facing an economic emergency as over 1 million jobs have been lost, unemployment has risen to 12.5% and is closer to 25% among youth and even higher among young people of color; and

WHEREAS cuts to the California public services have counteracted the efforts of the federal stimulus bill to rejuvenate the economy through maintaining public sector jobs; and

WHEREAS California has tremendous wealth as the seventh largest economy in the world, the third biggest oil producer, with the seventh highest per capita income of any state and property values that remain some of the highest in the country; and

WHEREAS the Governor of California's proposed budget falls short of restoring vital public services to funding levels of the 2008-2009 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Governor proposes changes in the state income tax rates which will increase the burden of taxes on lower income families; and

WHEREAS thousands of students at the University of California facing 32% increases in fees and increasing privatization of education, joined striking university employees on September 24th and November 18th-20th; and

Whereas; following these events a hugely successful conference was held at UC Berkeley on October 24th attended by 800 students, workers and supporters; and

RESOLVED that UPTC-CWA Local 9119 recognizes that without united action no single group or one Union can reverse this offensive; and be it further

RESOLVED that the 1,200 AFL-CIO and Change to Win unions in the California Labor Federation representing 2.1 million union members in such crucial industries as shipping, retail, manufacturing, public service and communications have tremendous potential power; and be it further

RESOLVED that through a united mobilization of all workers and students regardless of status we can win free federally funded education at all levels, increased jobs, a halt to foreclosures and a better life for all; and be it further

RESOLVED that funding for such social needs must come through procedural reforms, such as an end to the 2/3 vote, and budgetary solutions which tap the wealthiest sectors of the economy, not the

most vulnerable, such as an oil severance tax and further progressive taxation of income and personal and commercial property and corporate profits; and be it further

RESOLVED that the leadership of the California Labor Federation, the Change to Win Coalition and the international Unions so affiliated to these bodies, as well as non-affiliated Unions join the call for and participate in a statewide day of action up to and including a general strike on March 4th 2010 and publicly announce such intentions; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the resources of organized Labor in California be used between now and March 4th 2010 to build support among the members of its affiliated Unions, the communities in which we live and work, and among the youth for a successful and united statewide day of action up to and including a general strike against the assault on working people and our families.