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UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL
AND TECHNICAL
EMPLOYEES

Public Higher Education: Governor Brown signs AB 848 (McCarty) the “Stop Offshoring Abuse” bill into law

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October 16, 2017—Governor Brown signed a bill that prevents public educational institutions sending taxpayer funded jobs overseas. The bill was advanced by unions at the University of California and California State Universities after UC entered into an alarming and groundbreaking contract with HCL, a multi-billion dollar Indian corporation, to send public jobs to overseas.

AB 848 (McCarty) is known as the "Stop Off-shoring Abuse" bill, due to the abusive off-shoring behavior of management at the University of California, San Francisco campus.

UCSF off-shored 97 information technology (IT) positions in July of 2016 to a company called HCL, whose business model is to bring Indian workers to the US on H-1B visas, and engage in a "knowledge transfer" process where US workers are forced to sit next to their replacements and teach them to do their own jobs. The UCSF IT workers lost their jobs after the "knowledge transfer" was complete on February 28, 2017, but they kept up the fight to change the law for future employees.

"We want to sincerely thank the brave IT workers who stuck through this legislative process with us," said Jelger Kalmijn, president of UPTE-CWA Local 9119, which co-sponsored the bill. "While they were looking for new jobs and a way to provide for themselves and their families, they also took the time to go to the Capitol and fight for what was right. They are heroes," he said.

"We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Assemblymember Kevin McCarty. His focus is to build the U.S. economy, specifically the tech and STEM economy in the U.S. and in California with this bill," said IT worker Kurt Ho. "As I stated in my *60 Minutes* interview, our public tax dollars should be going toward building up the US middle class, not corporate interests elsewhere. Off-shoring jobs in the public sector is wrong," Ho added.

Twelve years before the UCSF IT workers were affected, UCSF off-shored its medical transcriptionist services to a company in Pakistan. The owner of the company did not think she was paid fairly, and threatened to release private medical data onto the open web, which would have been a HIPPA violation had she been in the US and subject to US law. Luckily, this event was resolved without incident.

UCSF IT worker Robert Harrison said, "It is best not to facilitate a global race to the bottom where workers are pit against each other. It is best not to even put them or us in that position."

Pat Gantt, President of CSUEU representing California State University staff comments, "the Governor recognizes the need to protect California jobs from the University administrators and how they careers off-shore."

UPTE-CWA 9119 represents thousands of professional and technical employees systemwide at the University of California, as well as skilled trades people at Livermore National Lab and associate faculty at three California community colleges. Learn more at www.upte.org.

CSUEU Incorporated in 2005 after serving its members as a division of the California State Employees Association for more than 80 years, the California State University Employees Union has built up a rich record of achievements on behalf of its 15,000 represented employees.

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