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Resolution to Support the Creation of Progressive Tax/Majority Rule Coalition(s)

Whereas, the current severe reduction in revenue for public needs calls for an urgent broadly based popular demand for progressive taxation in our state; and

Whereas, on May 5, 2008 the San Francisco Labor Council adopted the resolution "*Fund for Schools and Public Needs: Fight Back with Vision, Values and Progressive Taxation*," affirming key values in taxation and public life, and noting the worsening conditions in employment and services in education, and other parts of the public sector at state, city and other levels; and

Whereas, since May of 2008, conditions have only worsened, and now many more public sector unions and other concerned organizations (students, seniors, etc.) are organizing a variety of responses to the massive transfer of wealth upwards and increasingly chronic and severe austerity (cuts in services, privatization, user fees, etc.); and

Whereas, this transfer of wealth upwards, and the robbing of the public and public employees, calls for dramatic and multi-faceted political and social responses, including education and coalition-building, in order to remedy the social disasters brought by austerity; and

Whereas, such concerted and focused coalition efforts require an informed AND critical mass of public sector unions, students at all levels, poor people, seniors, public transit users, park users and many other elements of the public; and

Whereas, the furlough of state workers, the layoffs of many teachers and support staff in ALL levels of public education, the attacks on health care, senior services, the closure of state parks, the reduction in state funds apportioned to counties, cities and school districts and resulting increase in fees and fines by public bodies, the underfunding and understaffing/layoffs in regulatory agencies, i.e., the imposition of austerity on working people, etc. ... can be reversed in a large measure with majority rule and a system of fair taxation in California; and

Whereas, the San Francisco Labor Council needs to actively help build a broadly based coalition(s) in defense of democratic and majority rule and fair funding/progressive taxation for public needs – affirming that THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE to austerity,

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council, as a high priority, actively participate in building a broad based movement for (1) fair and progressive taxation in California, (2) majority rule and the end to the 2/3 vote requirement for taxes and (3) adequate funding for public services; and

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council will inform the delegates, affiliates, friends and allies regarding the issues of tax fairness/progressive taxation and democratic options; and

Therefore Be it Further Resolved that educational meetings shall be held – where practical – on the SFLC’s 4th Monday educational meetings, and that such meetings will, in part, draw on the developed expertise of the California Labor Federation, the California Federation of Teachers, the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Workers, and others inside and outside of Labor and provide information on the activities of unions and other organizations that are resisting austerity in different ways; and

Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council will encourage area Labor Councils to engage in such similar education and other activities, towards the goals stated above, and

Therefore Be It Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council also act to support the building of coalitions as described above by endorsing and participating in the student and educator-called October 24, 2009 Mobilizing Conference to Save Public Education to be held at UC Berkeley.

Submitted by Conny Ford, OPEIU Local 3; Tom Edminster, UESF; Denis Mosgofian, IBT GCC-4N; Alan Benjamin, OPEIU Local 3; and Dave Welsh, NALC 214 and unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on September 28, 2009.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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