

APRIL 2016 CTA STATE COUNCIL

STATE COUNCIL UPDATE



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Representing PVFA, RBTA and CVSTA

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Dear Members of PVFA, RBTA and CVSTA,

Happy Spring!! I hope this Update finds you well having had a restful Spring Break. It has been an eventful beginning to 2016. The April State Council just wrapped up this past weekend. The April State Council celebrated the life of Cesar Chavez and his numerous contributions to the labor movement. Included in each program was an insert celebrating our victory in the Friedrichs' case. I cannot over emphasize what a huge victory this is for our profession and for all working families throughout the country. This victory will allow us to continue our work in protecting public education, fighting for the

rights of our members and working to fix the injustice of wage disparity. Although this was a great victory, the attacks on our profession by the wealthiest individuals in this country will not stop. Our resolve to continue to fight for our shared belief in public education has never been stronger. I am excited about tackling the challenges ahead working in solidarity with our brothers and sisters within the CTA.

In Solidarity and Aloha,

Jason Y Calizar

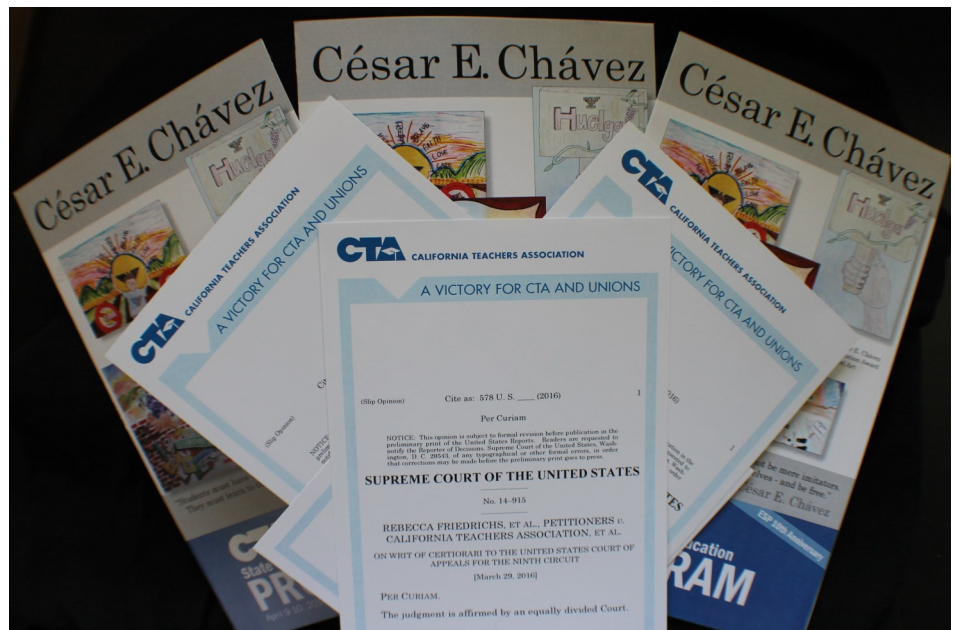
CTA State Council Representative, District ILA6

Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act

CTA is currently gathering signatures to qualify this act for the November ballot. This act will extend the Prop 30 taxes on the wealthiest 2% of the state. Prop 30 revenues are set to expire in 2018; this act will extend the revenue stream for an additional 12 years. If this does not pass, we will end up where we were during the recession—with tens of thousands of layoffs, furlough days, program cuts and more.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SITE REP IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED THIS IMPORTANT PETITION.

Deadline to sign has been extended to April 18, 2016.



District I Caucus Report

Petition Drive—Much of the discussion in the caucus meeting was on gathering signatures for our ballot initiative to continue the Prop 30 taxes to ensure a revenue stream for 12 years beyond the expiration of Prop 30. (see pg.1 for more information)

Each service center is charged with a goal of 1000 signatures. Locally, at South Bay United Teachers we are at 582. Please make that last push to: 1) Sign the petition if you have not done so already; 2) Help gather signatures. The deadline to submit signatures has been extended to April 18th.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SITE REP IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED THIS IMPORTANT PETITION.

Know Your Rights-Testing Opt Out Rights

In my January Update, I wrote about the toxic environment created by invalid high-stakes testing. At the January Council, this was discussed at length on the floor of Council. One area discussed, was the lack of information regarding our rights as classroom teachers when it comes to students opting out of testing. CTA leadership heard our concerns and has addressed them with a series of handouts and communications informing of our rights and our student's rights regarding opting out of testing.

As a classroom teacher, you have the right to advise and inform your students of their right to opt out. However, you CANNOT solicit nor encourage them to opt out.

Opt-Out information from CTA will be available on my Dropbox site (see below).

Committee Report from the Credentialing and Professional Development Committee (CPD)

California Teacher Shortage—In the January Update, I discussed the looming shortage of teachers this state will be facing in the near future. Our state legislators have started to address this shortage with a series of proposed legislation. As a member of the Legislative subcommittee, I reviewed 15 bills at this State Council and supported the following positions:

AB1756(Support); AB1918(Watch); AB2122(Support); AB2248(NoPos); AB2275(Oppose); AB2336(Watch); AB2353(NoPos); AB2401(Support); AB2644(NoPos); AB2707(NoPos); SB871(Watch); SB915(Support); SB933(Watch); SB1381(Watch); SB916(Oppose-overturned on Floor, amended by Council to Support).

SB916(Allen)-This proposed legislation will create a new credential for Dance and Drama. Currently, holders of an English credential are authorized to teach Drama and holders of a PE credential are authorized to teach dance. CPD's position of oppose is supported by Policy against the proliferation of credentials. This allows for flexibility in keeping our members employed should dance and/or drama programs shrink. Additionally, for districts unable to fund a fulltime drama/dance program the English teacher and PE teacher can fill that role. With passage of this bill, this will no longer be allowed.

After a lengthy and passionate debate on the floor of Council, CPD's position was overturned to a support position. This required a rare standing roll call vote on the floor (a first in five years).

State Council Documents—To view State Council documents referenced in the Update, click on the link below to access them:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qlj00clzxxl9asa/AADV-13JtRwTYa367Okiifrsa?dl=0>