



California Federation of Teachers  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**     *Contact: Sandra Weese; 510.220.3178*  
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## **Early Care And Education Workers Vote To Join CFT!**

*Northcoast Children's Services Workers Welcomed by President Hittelman*

*Oakland, CA* – After months of grass roots organizing, Northcoast Children's Services (NCS) early care and education workers won a federally-mediated union election earlier this week, choosing to be represented by The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) in contract negotiations.

CFT President Marty Hittelman today welcomed the NCS workers to the union, saying, "Having a union will allow these workers to have the kind of professional support and protection that they need to be effective with the children."

As a result of the National Labor Relations Board election victory, the CFT will now represent over 240 NCS workers at roughly thirty sites, serving over 1,000 children in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. "The CFT hopes that this victory is just one of many that we achieve to give a voice in the workplace to this largely unrepresented segment of education."

Emphasizing that quality care and education for the over 1,000 children served is paramount to both the CFT and the newly-affiliated workers, Hittelman said: "This was a great organizing victory for CFT but even more so for the NCS early care and education staff and the families and children they serve."

The closely contested election pitted an employer who clearly did not want the union against a workforce determined to claim their rights under the law to organize a union and have a voice at work. CFT Early Childhood Education Organizing Project Coordinator, Sandra Weese, noted that "The workers were amazing. They acted with integrity and demonstrated great courage in standing up for what is right for themselves and the children."

The CFT represents 120,000 education professionals working at every level of the education system, from ECE to the University; while the AFT has more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, 43 state affiliates, and more than 1.4 million members.

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