



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

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## **Educators respond to Governor's Revised Budget: Cuts Mean Thousands of Teachers Lost**

SACRAMENTO - California Federation of Teachers (CFT) President Marty Hittelman responded to the governor's revised budget proposal. Hittelman vowed to continue CFT's campaign, the "Fight for California's Future," as an alternative to the governor's position that we have no choice but to further reduce important social programs. "Lost tax revenue due to loopholes for the rich and large corporations is costing the state's general fund billions of dollars every year," said Hittelman. "Governor Schwarzenegger is leaving a clear legacy – a legacy of saying one thing and doing the opposite. In January, he claimed he was not going to cut education, and in May he proposes to cut it by \$2 billion. How does that protect education?"

"This governor has made more than \$17 billion in cuts to education over the last two years. Tens of thousands of teachers are being laid off. Class sizes are rising, school years are being shortened, new textbooks are not being purchased, and nurses, bus drivers and other essential personnel and programs are being eliminated. Schwarzenegger is using the budget crisis to promote some of his favorite issues, none of which would benefit the majority of people in California," said Hittelman. "The governor is at it again, destroying public education and other public services that Californians depend upon. He is going to leave a clear legacy of turning California into a Third World country. Californians have a right to a quality public education, public health services and a retirement in dignity. All of those are undermined by this budget and the governor's policies."

*CFT news release, Budget revision response, 5.14.10; page 2*

*Fight for California's Future:*

“The California Federation of Teachers has an alternative to these bad ideas. We are continuing a campaign, the Fight for California's Future, to protest the cuts proposed for education and other vital public services, to restore California state government so that it works for all the people, and to secure the state's future through fair, progressive tax policies,” Hittelman said.

Over the past fifteen years the top one percent of California income earners has increased its share of income from 13% to 25%, but its tax responsibility has gone down from 11.3% to 9.3%, leaving the state without 5-6 billion dollars/year. Last year, the governor's budget lost the state billions of dollars of corporate taxes in the long term in exchange for a modest short-term boost; we will work to repeal this corporate loophole. We will also advocate for a split roll tax, and other progressive taxes that ask the most affluent to do their fair part to help the state.

“We don't think the problem is that the majority of Californians don't like taxes. Most polling says otherwise. The problem is that to raise taxes takes 2/3 of the Legislature instead of a simple majority, and just over one third of the legislature has taken a “no new tax” pledge circulated by Grover Norquist, a man whose stated goal is to destroy government services that benefit working families,” said Hittelman.

The Campaign for California's Future will educate the public about how this works, and ultimately we will help turn California around.

*For more information please visit [www.cft.org](http://www.cft.org).*

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