



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

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**Assemblymember Skinner to Highlight Need for California to
Restore Reagan-Wilson Tax Rates on Millionaires**
LACCD Board of Trustees votes to Support AB 1130

LOS ANGELES – Assembly Rules Committee Chair Nancy Skinner (D – Berkeley) joined students, parents and educators at Los Angeles Valley College in calling for passage of her bill, AB 1130, to restore the personal income tax rates on California’s wealthiest taxpayers closer to what they were when Ronald Reagan and Pete Wilson were the Governors of California. The restoration of a 1% higher rate would affect less than 1% of Californians.

“Public education has already been cut by more than \$20 billion over the past three years. Community colleges are unable to meet the demands of a student population swelled by economic refugees from the recession,” said Joshua Pechthalt, CFT president. “Now colleges face furloughs for classified staff and lost class sections for students and their instructors. Absent new revenues, legislators will cut billions more to close the remaining \$15 billion budget deficit.”

“My bill, AB 1130, restores the income tax rate paid by the wealthiest Californians during the years that Ronald Reagan and Pete Wilson governed California,” said Assemblymember Skinner (D-Berkeley). “It would increase by one percent the tax on Californians who make over \$500,000 a year. This change affects less than 120,000 taxpayers and would bring in an estimated \$2.3 billion in additional revenue.”

A recent poll by the Public Policy Institute of California showed that 62% of likely California voters support raising the top tax rate on our most wealthy residents. “Today, whether you earn \$50,000 a year, \$250,000 a year or a million, you pay the same 9.3% income tax rate. Under AB 1130, wealthy Californians who earn \$500,000 and above would pay only a fraction more to help us fund our schools and social services,” said Assemblymember Skinner.

The Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District passed a resolution last week supporting AB 1130. LA Valley Community College board member Kelly Candaele told the news conference, “At a time when education is being slashed, when teachers are being laid off, when community college students are being told they will have to wait to advance in their education, AB 1130 moves us in the right direction. It's part of the answer to the pressing problems that face California.”

“The California Federation of Teachers/Council of Classified Employees (CFT/CCE) supports AB1130 because this would be a means to fund and support quality education in both K-12 and Community College Districts,” said Velma J. Butler, President Council of Classified Employees (CCE) and the AFT College Staff Guild, Local 1521A.

“We in the community colleges offer the dream of a college education to those who would not otherwise be able to achieve their goals for a better life,” said Deborah Kaye, LA College Faculty Guild AFT 1521 Secretary. “We as faculty watch in despair as we are forced to close the door on students desperate to get into our classes. It's heartbreaking to have to turn students away, but we have no choice without sufficient funding.”

LA Valley College Student Marcos Perez said, “After years of budget cuts to community colleges, and consistently forcing students to pay more out of pocket for an education of a lesser quality, I stand in support of AB 1130 because this bill will bring much needed funding back to community colleges to bring back the Summer sessions LAVC used to have, and to restore student services such as counseling and assistance for Financial Aid.”

Martha Sanchez, who is a parent of LAUSD students, told reporters, "Each of the last three years, my kids' schools have had to deal with massive layoffs and cuts to programs. My family works hard, we pay our taxes and it's not fair that our kids are losing their chance to get a decent education. It's time for our most well-off residents to pay their fair share too."

“The people of California strongly favor increasing taxes by 1% on millionaires and billionaires instead of additional cuts to education and key public services,” said Pechthalt. “The restoration of a 1% higher rate would affect only 1% of Californians while saving thousands of jobs in public education, public health, and public safety and keeping class sizes lower, health clinics open, and the streets in our neighborhoods safer.”

The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) calls upon the Legislature to approve the governor’s tax extensions and a 1% surtax on the richest 1% of Californians. Students are not getting the support they need, while people who already make at least \$500,000 per year together pocket a \$9 billion per year federal tax break.

For more information please visit www.cft.org.