



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

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Educators Launch Radio Ad Campaign *Calls for Tax Extension for Public Education, Safety*

SACRAMENTO, CA - The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) today launched a radio ad campaign as part of a “Week of Action” to protect public education and other services. CFT President-elect Josh Pechthalt said the educators are running ads aimed at Republican Senators who haven’t supported funding for public education. The ads will run as local educators throughout the state stage protests against the defunding of public education.

“Educators will march, protest, stage ‘grade-ins’ at local shopping malls, and take other actions to protest the refusal of Republican legislators to approve funding for public education,” said Pechthalt. “The radio ads will make known to local voters which legislators are failing to support public education. 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 millionaires and billionaires are pocketing a \$9 billion per year federal tax break.”

The ads feature second-year high school language teacher Amelia Fitzgerald, who has received pink slips both of her first two years, and will likely lose her job as a result of the latest layoff notice. In the ads, Fitzgerald says the senators “haven’t voted for governor Brown’s proposal to extend current taxes to save schools and public safety services. Senator Strickland’s taken a pledge never to vote for new taxes. But these aren’t new taxes; they’re old ones that are expiring. And if the Legislature doesn’t vote to extend them, I’m going to be laid off, police and firefighters will be furloughed, and we will all lose.”

Pechthalt said public education has already been cut “by more than \$20 billion over the past three years. More than 20,000 educators and 10,000 school support employees have been taken from classrooms and schools. Up to 20,000 more educators face layoffs this year. Absent new revenues, legislators will cut billions more to close the remaining budget \$15 billion deficit.

The ads can be heard here: www.cft.org