



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

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## **Pink-slipped LA Teacher Featured in New Ad:**

*“There’s an alternative to destroying our future.”*

LOS ANGELES - The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) launched a radio advertising campaign today featuring pink-slipped teacher Julie Van Winkle. Van Winkle, who’s teaching her final days at Liechty Middle School, calls on the governor and Legislature to end corporate and oil company tax breaks, and raise rates on people making over a million dollars per year.

Van Winkle, a seventh-grade math and science teacher, says in the ad, “I may not see my students this fall. I have been given a pink slip due to state budget cuts. The governor thinks the best way to solve our state budget crisis is to lay off school employees, close parks, dismantle health services, and allow our roads to decay. This is his political decision, not a foregone conclusion.”

CFT President Marty Hittelman said the educators are launching the radio ad campaign in Los Angeles with a “substantial” purchase of time. “The governor has other priorities and they are giving tax breaks to corporations and oil companies, and harming students and teachers. We want the public to know that this is a *choice* to protect the powerful over students. I call upon the governor and the Legislature to move to protect California's future.”

United Teachers Los Angeles President A.J. Duffy told a news conference announcing the ad campaign, “There’s no time to lose. These cuts will have a devastating, immediate impact on our schools. Students will lose beloved teachers and face huge increases in class sizes. Legislators and the governor can turn this around by embracing reasonable ways to increase revenues, such as ending corporate tax breaks and fairly taxing those most able to afford it.”

Van Winkle told a news conference announcing the ad campaign, “Getting the pink slip was devastating. I’ve developed strong teacher-to-student relationships, as have the 42 other teachers at my school who’ve received pink slips. It’s hard for the students and the teachers. A few days before I got my pink slip, I had been approved for a loan to buy my first home. Because I don’t have definite employment for next year, I had to put off looking for a house.”

To hear Van Winkle’s powerful message to the governor and legislators, please visit [www.cft.org](http://www.cft.org).

Here is the text of Julie Van Winkle’s ad:

Narrator: A message from middle school teacher Julie Van Winkle.

Teacher: I may not see my students this fall. I have been given a pink slip due to state budget cuts. But before I look for another job, I have something to say.

California is the richest state in the country. Yet the Governor thinks the best way to solve our state budget crisis is lay off school employees, close parks, dismantle health services, and allow our roads to decay.

This is his political decision, not a foregone conclusion.

Cuts are only inevitable if we keep giving huge tax breaks to the oil companies and the richest Californians. That’s not the way it has to be. Everyone has lost ground during the recession but people making over a million dollars per year still own one third of the state’s wealth. They can afford to pay more taxes.

Corporations have received billions of dollars in tax cuts in the last few years. They can afford to pay taxes at the rates they used to.

There is an alternative to destroying our future. I may not see my students this fall, but they still deserve a decent education. Tell the governor and legislature to do what’s right.

Narrator: Paid for by California Federation of Teachers COPE and United Teachers Los Angeles.

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