Resolution in Opposition to AB 10

Whereas, 28,000 citizens have died in the California COVID pandemic;

Whereas, AB 10 sets an arbitrary date for schools to reopen for in-person instruction, which does not take into account infection rates or other scientifically grounded data;

Whereas, health experts at state levels have insisted that decision making be guided by metrics and benchmarks rather than by political pressure;

Whereas, no statewide tracking system exists that accounts for which schools have reopened and which have not, including complete data about outbreaks and positive cases;

Whereas, AB 10 does not include stipulations for necessary planning within districts or resources for districts to safely reopen schools, at a time when school districts are forced to cut funding;

Whereas, AB10 does not include a plan for providing adequate PPE to school sites, nor is there any mention of the necessity of social distancing, ventilation, or cleaning protocols;

Whereas, AB 10 does not take into account that sizable percentage of low income students or students of color will not return to school right now even if schools are open, and surveys have highlighted the extent to which Black and Latino parents, in particular, do not have confidence that their children’s safety will be guaranteed in reopened schools, and in fact a CDC survey recently showed that Black and Latino parents were less likely to send their children to school than white parents, which would unfairly exacerbate already existing inequities;

Whereas, AB 10 ignores disparities amongst and within counties;

Whereas, AB 10 removes local control mandated under Propositions 30 and 55, which mandate local input into budgetary decisions;

Whereas, AB 10 stipulates that schools must reopen when schools are counties are in the Orange Tier, indicating still substantial or moderate spread;

Whereas, a safety check list created by teachers exists for safely reopening schools;

Whereas, California should be a leader in innovation by educating the next generation of students to compete in the global economy;

Whereas, AB 10 makes a blanket statewide demand, though county case rates vary wildly;
Whereas, AB 10 overrides decision making capabilities by local elected school board trustees;

Whereas, the state of California has a responsibility to secure the health and wellness of every resident;

Whereas, school board, administrators, teachers and classified staff have a responsibility to school communities, families and students to provide for a safe educational environment;

Whereas, California Federation of Teachers has a responsibility to members, students, and communities to advocate for a safe educational environment;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the San Mateo Central County Central Labor Council opposes AB 10 and urges our elected Assembly members to support local planning including districts, school boards and educational workers in crafting plans to safely reopen schools.

Submitted by Teachers, AFT Local 3267

Adopted by the San Mateo County Central Labor Council on January 11, 2021