

New Action/UFT

...a caucus of the United Federation of Teachers
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Friedrichs – A Grave Threat to our Union

There is a case being heard at the Supreme Court, Friedrichs vs California Teachers Association, that seeks to eliminate dues check-off across this land. Whereas we would like union rights extended to all, the sinister forces behind this case want to drive members out of unions, leaving us feeble and crippled financially. They dream of a land with no rights for working people.

We must run an extensive education campaign in our chapters, so that all of our members understand the threat. And we must engage our members in a public fight against Friedrichs.

Jia Lee Endorsed Unanimously by New Action/UFT

The New Action Executive Board gave a resounding approval to the candidacy of Jia Lee, Chapter Leader of the Earth School for UFT President. Jia has been a leader of the Opt-Out movement. She opposes Race to the Top. She is a staunch opponent of the Teacher Evaluation system, which ties standardized tests to teachers' ratings.

In contrast to this forthright opposition, the UFT has called for incremental improvements to the disastrous teacher evaluation system. They have not stood up to support Opt-out. And why didn't they stand up against Obama's Race to the Top? When a New Action/UFT member of the UFT Executive Board asked, a leading Unity Caucus member responded, "We were pressured into it."



Jia Lee does not accept this. She has also been outspoken in her rejection of charter schools and for smaller class sizes (something the Unity leadership has failed to fight for in contract talks. She has no interest in bargaining away our rights, or bowing to "pressure."

For these and many other reasons New Action/UFT and the MORE Caucus have formed an electoral alliance in the upcoming citywide UFT elections. It is time for a new leadership! We must fight the charter school advocates, the deformed and stand 100% with the rank and file members of the UFT!

Resolution in Opposition to Receivership

Cuomo's new law establishes "receivership" for schools with low test scores across New York State. The law is a travesty, and a disaster, and must be opposed and overturned.

Receivership depends on "test and punish." It allows the receiver to abolish teachers' jobs and other staff's jobs and force them to reapply. The Receiver is given carte blanche control over budget, curriculum, and the length of the school day. Receivership denies due process.

Above all, the new law demands changes in schools, while providing ZERO resources, even as the State is underfunding urban schools.

Our leaders have begun speaking out against this mess. Now we can. Tonight's resolution puts our entire union on record in the strongest possible terms opposing receivership. Please vote yes on the resolution and no on receivership.

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