

UNITED TEACHERS OF RICHMOND CTA/NEA

Support for the teachers of Mexico 2016

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of teachers in Mexico have demonstrated their opposition to the so- called “education reforms” promoted by the Secretary of Education and the President of Mexico, by marching through the streets in the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, Jalisco, Mexico, Chiapas, Morelos, and Hidalgo, since July of 2015; and

WHEREAS, the CNTE has mounted resistance in the form of road blocks, occupations, and shut-downs to oppose privatization, moves against tenure and labor rights, and the imposition of an unfair teacher “evaluation” system; and

WHEREAS, the teachers’ fight for a democratic education, respect for their profession, resistance to privatization, education based in local communities that is respectful of indigenous languages and cultures has been portrayed in the mainstream media in both the U.S. and Mexico as simply a fight to protect jobs and “privileges”; and

WHEREAS, teacher opposition to the reforms involving standardized testing of both teachers and students has led to the unfair and illegal dismissal of thousands of teachers; and

WHEREAS, government response to the CNTE has been repression, the most extreme form being the recent murder of 12 teachers, and the beatings of over 100 people by the police during a peaceful demonstration in Oaxaca on June 19, 2016, and the continued abduction, disappearance and jailing of many CNTE leaders and organizers; and

WHEREAS, as educators, we are very concerned about the corporate direction of Mexico’s Federal education reform program, as we are about similar programs in the United States. We oppose the privatization of public education, and of the corporate-directed programs for standardized testing of students and teachers. We are especially opposed to the use of those tests as the instruments for mass firings, as has been suggested in both countries.

WHEREAS, in response to the murderous attacks on the striking teachers, teachers and progressive peoples around the world have responded with protests and declarations of opposition to violence; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the United Teachers of Richmond, a member of the California Teachers’ Association, express solidarity by sending letters of protest to Mexican President Peña Nieto, the Secretary of Education, the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, and Mexican Embassies demanding the release of all incarcerated teachers and community organizers jailed for opposition to the education

reforms. UTR will also send the resolution to LA CNTE, the organization representing the embattled teachers of Mexico.

RESOLVED, that the United Teachers of Richmond calls upon the leadership of the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association to pass similar resolutions of solidarity for the struggle of the teachers of Mexico against privatization and other “neoliberal” reforms. UTR demands an end to the violent repression of our fellow educators and union activists in the country of Mexico and for the opening of genuine dialogue on the issues of public education.