

From the press conference announcing the filing of a class-action lawsuit against the CTA and CFA unions to block funds for anti-Schwarzenegger electioneering:

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In recent months, CTA, CFA, and other unions boldly announced they were jacking up the mandatory union dues of California's public servants by tens of millions of dollars. The money has been earmarked – and is being spent hand over fist – to defeat of a series of ballot propositions on November's ballot that happen to be opposed by union officials.

Rank-and-file teachers, professors, and other government workers were not consulted – and they certainly were not allowed an opportunity to object to, and prevent, this extraordinary expenditure of their money for politics.

The National Right to Work Foundation has received countless calls and e-mails from educators who believe the unions' actions are an egregious violation of their First Amendment Rights. They object to the forced extraction of dues for this electioneering activity – and they asked for our help.

Our attorneys examined the facts, and found that the actions of these union officials fly in the face of the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Supreme Court precedents. Accordingly, the Foundation agreed to provide free legal assistance – just as we have in the more than 250 Foundation legal-aid cases currently underway across America, each involving some form of compulsory unionism abuse.

By their actions, CTA and CFA union officials seem to have little use for California's educators, *other than to serve as the union's ATM*

machine. And the union brass are breaking the bank to push their political agenda this fall.

Most educators just want to teach their children. It is this passion that led them to this noble profession. The fact is that many professionals want nothing to do with a union – or its militant political agenda.

In just the last three weeks, CTA officials wrote checks totaling more than \$23 million to defeat several ballot propositions. That's on top of at least \$22 million already spent this summer.

To the teachers, it doesn't really matter what the ballot measures are about – nor does it matter to the National Right to Work Foundation. The U.S. Supreme Court has established that employees should have an opportunity to object and prevent their mandatory dues from being spent for politics of any kind – as well as any other union activity outside of collective bargaining. And union officials must give due process before seizing such dues.

It is an admitted fact that CTA raised these extraordinary sums through a \$50 million bank loan – secured by a dues increase of \$60 per teacher, per year, over the next three years. The first dues deduction from California's more than 300,000 teachers will occur in only a few days. The first deduction from California State University's 23,000 professors has already occurred.

That's why a group of educators, who are represented here at this press conference, have stepped forward today to file a class-action lawsuit in U.S. District Court to vindicate their rights and the rights of their colleagues. The teachers and professors file this suit on behalf of all members and non-members of the CTA and all non-members of the CFA union.

Their attorneys, led by Foundation staff attorney Milton Chappell, will be asking the court to enjoin CTA and CFA from collection – or further use – of these forced dues, until every single educator in the state is

given a proper notice of their rights and an opportunity to object and to keep their hard-earned money.

We will be asking the court to act sooner, rather than later. Forcing teachers even to give a loan to the union -- so it can to fund its electioneering -- would similarly violate their constitutional rights... The results of an election cannot be undone.

The time has come for union officials in California to respect the constitutional rights of the employees they claim to represent.

Respect for those who dissent may be a new concept for CTA and CFA officials, but it's the law.