

## RESOLUTION OPPOSING EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL ON EDUCATION REFORMS POLICY

**WHEREAS**, the only way to improve pre-K through post-graduate education in this state is to value and respect the contributions of teachers and educators to the development of our children and students; and

**WHEREAS**, the education reforms policy as proposed in the Executive Budget submitted on January 21, 2015 ignores the real difficulties that our public schools and universities face and instead places blame squarely on the shoulders of the professional women and men who have dedicated their lives to the welfare, nurturing and betterment of our children and students; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal ignores poverty, homelessness, malnutrition, developmental and behavioral issues, language barriers, and many of the other issues caused by socio-economic circumstances that interfere with the ability of children and students to learn; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal would diminish the due process rights of teachers and other school employees, which would have the effect of discouraging them from speaking out and advocating for their students due to fear of retribution; and

**WHEREAS**, the education reform section of the budget would allow a receiver to negate provisions of collective bargaining agreements, which is an undue and unacceptable interference of the labor/management relationship; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal does not provide the resources necessary for New York's public pre-K through post-graduate institutions to operate effectively for all our children and students; and

**WHEREAS**, New York, the most unionized state in the country, has a long and proud history of protecting and advancing a worker's right to a voice in the workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, collective bargaining and due process rights are issues of shared concern and interest to public sector, private sector, and building trades unions, and the proposals in the budget to diminish those rights are therefore an affront to all workers; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Council of the New York State AFL-CIO and the 2.5 million members represented throughout this state stand together in recognizing that building a strong, productive public school system means including teachers and collective bargaining as part of the solution for a system that will benefit all of New York's children, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Council of the New York State AFL-CIO unanimously opposes the education reforms policy as proposed in S2010/A3010 and call for its removal from the state budget.