

RESOLUTION #10

AFT MICHIGAN
70TH CONVENTION
MAY 2-3, 2008

WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

- Whereas, Union membership provides workers better wages and benefits and protection from discrimination and unsafe workplaces, while benefiting whole communities by strengthening tax bases, promoting equal treatment and enhancing civic participation; and
- Whereas, The International Labor Organization has defined the right to organize and bargain collectively as a basic human right that is honored by democratic countries around the globe for both private and public sector employees; and
- Whereas, Experience in all sectors of the economy has demonstrated that services to the public are improved where there is a meaningful system of communication between employees and management. Service improvement is also most evident where frontline employees have a voice in decisions that affect their work, where employees have the right to choose their own representatives to deal with management and where there is a strong union to represent the interests of employees. The framework for improving the institutions where AFT members work has been established through meaningful collective bargaining. These conclusions are at the heart of the U.S. Department of Labor's Task Force on Excellence in State and Local Government through Labor-Management Cooperation; and
- Whereas, A worker's fundamental right to choose a union is a public issue that requires public policy solutions, including legislative change; and
- Whereas, In the public and private sectors employers continue to successfully use stalling tactics and expensive and sophisticated legal maneuvers to thwart workers' efforts to organize; and
- Whereas, Justice delayed is justice denied; and
- Whereas, Card check recognition by majority sign-up will give more workers the opportunity to organize unions and increase the scope, scale and pace of organizing; NOW
THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the AFT Michigan work with the American Federation of Teachers, all of organized labor and the community to reform U.S. labor law by streamlining election procedures to eliminate delays and permit certification through card checks, require employer neutrality and sanction those who willfully violate labor law. Reverse the *Yeshiva* and the Health Care and Retirement Corp. of America decisions, expedite the resolution of unfair labor practice complaints, and protect individuals from discrimination or punishment resulting from the exercise of lawful organizing or union activities.

Submitted by:
Resolution Committee

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