

RESOLUTION #4

**AFT MICHIGAN
70TH CONVENTION
MAY 2-3, 2008**

**SUPPORTING THE REPEAL OF THE
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT**

- Whereas, The No Child Left Behind Act was passed by the United States Congress in 2001; and
- Whereas, The No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2001; and
- Whereas, Since its inception the No Child Left Behind Act has not been sufficiently funded by the federal government with necessary resources to implement the mandates of the law; and
- Whereas, School districts, particularly in poor urban and rural areas have been specifically targeted with the threat of lost federal funding for not meeting the standards of so-called “adequate yearly progress” via the unfunded mandates; and
- Whereas, Teachers and other instructional personnel in such school districts are being unduly criticized and blamed for the failure to meet the standards of so-called “adequately yearly progress” despite not being provided with the necessary materials and working conditions to implement the mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act, resulting in the reconstitution of “ low performing schools”; and
- Whereas, The No Child Left Behind Act has contributed to the proliferation of charter schools particularly in poor urban areas, thus draining much needed resources from traditional public schools, resulting in teacher and staff layoffs, oversized classes, and the disruption of a productive learning and teaching environment, THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED: That AFT Michigan at its 2008 convention to be held May 2-3, 2008 to include in its platform, a demand for the repeal of the No Child Left Behind Act and compel the American Federation of Teachers to act in kind at the 2008 national convention, July 10-14, 2008; and BE IT FINALLY
- RESOLVED: That AFT Michigan calls upon AFT to draft and initiate legislation that provides for the proper role of the federal government in PreK12 education. Among other provisions, this legislation shall be designed to lift schools up rather than sanction them. Legislation shall provide necessary funding and demand that administrators, not just teachers and paraprofessionals are “highly qualified.”

Submitted by:
Detroit Federation of Teachers #231
As amended by Legislation Committee