

**FIGHTING FOR MEANINGFUL RESEARCH BASED EDUCATION REFORM**

**WHEREAS:** A key component of President Obama and Secretary Duncan's education reform is the expansion of charter schools even though there is no evidence that as a whole, charter schools outperform traditional public schools and in fact, many do not do as well; and

**WHEREAS:** A cornerstone of President Obama and Secretary Duncan's educational reform is the Race to the Top initiative, which overly relies on reforms that are not research based and could undermine collective bargaining; and

**WHEREAS:** The American Federation of Teachers has always advocated for meaningful education reform that is research based, good for students and fair for teachers and staff; and

**WHEREAS:** Michigan's Race to the Top application supported many of the reforms AFT Michigan has long advocated for strengthening academic standards, aligning assessments with standards, using research-based best practices, closing the achievement gap, addressing teacher needs through meaningful professional development and evaluations, and using data to drive decisions; and

**WHEREAS:** The Michigan Race to the Top application stated that issues and proposals in the application would have to be collectively bargained at the local level; and

**WHEREAS:** In December of 2009 the state legislature passed legislation incorporating many aspects of Race to the Top, legislation AFT Michigan opposed. The law covers all districts whether or not they receive Race to the Top funding; and

**WHEREAS:** The United States Congress has begun working on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED :** That AFT Michigan will advocate, that the reauthorization of ESEA be based on research based policies and allocate significantly more Title I funding to help address the inequality of school funding based on race and class; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan advocate, consistent with this resolution, to impact all educational policies set forth by President Obama, Secretary Duncan, ESEA and beyond that are not proven to enhance student learning and are not fair to teachers; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan will work with its allies to amend aspects of the current Michigan law that are not proven to enhance student learning and are not fair to teachers and staff.

Submitted by: Legislation Committee  
Legislation Committee recommends the resolution be adopted.