

Superintendent Dr. Eimear O'Farrell
Clovis Unified School District
1450 Herndon Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

Dear Superintendent Dr. O'Farrell,

We, the undersigned faith leaders, are writing to you today to stand in firm support of your district's certificated educators and their dream of strengthening themselves in a union. Not only is unionizing educational labor a legally protected right under the Educational Employment Relations Act, it is the greatest tool available to insure that protections are afforded to those who care for our most precious community members- our children. Our teachers are our heroes, and we should do everything possible to allow them to have the safety and protection only a union can offer to workers.

As a democratic nation, we collectively value the right of all to be heard. Teachers play a key role in fostering this truth for our children and we honor the work they do daily. We know you share the same appreciation for the vital role the democratic process plays in ensuring the voices of educators are meaningfully heard.

We pray that you are compassionate and empathetic with those teachers working to unionize as this process becomes realized. We believe that you will do what is right and, along with the Board and other administrators, will adhere to the law and remain strictly neutral regarding union representation. Since Clovis Unified includes unionized employees among some of its classified staff, you're likely already familiar with California Government Code Section 3543.5(d) that states it is unlawful for a public school employer to "dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of any employee organization, or contribute financial or other support to it, or in any way encourage employees to join any organization in preference to another."

We believe that this work will bear the fruit of success on behalf of all of our teachers and we are sure you will honor your educators rights to organize under EERA, and we thank you in advance for making sure this process will be completely free of any and all district interference.

Sincerely,

Hajj Reza Nekumanesh, Executive Director, Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno
Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent, Co-Chair, Interfaith Alliance of Central CA
Rev. Terrance Goodpasture, St. James Cathedral
Jim Grant, Director of Social Justice Ministry, Diocese of Fresno (ret)
Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno
Rev. Raygan Baker, Pastor First Congregational Church of Fresno
Rev. Anna Maria Lopez
Rev. Kathleen Landes, Pastor, New Thought Community
Rev. Steve Ratzlaff,
Rev. Dr. Darren Duerksen, Professor Associate Intercultural and Religious Studies, Fresno
Pacific University
Andy Levine, Lecturer, Fresno State Sociology Department

Rev. Akiko Miyake-Stoner, Pastor, United Japanese Christian Church
Rabbi Dr. Laura Novak Winer
Mariah Cushing, Fresno Pacific University
Deacon Nancy Key, St. James Episcopal Church
Rev. Tom Sims, Local Pastor
Justin Sean Myers, Assistant Professor, California State University, Fresno
Dr. Amber Crowell, Regional Housing Coordinator, Faith in the Valley
Julia Penner-Zook, Pastor, Community United Church of Christ, Fresno

Many within the boundaries of Clovis Unified School District and many who serve parents and students of the District.

cc: Clovis Unified Board School Board, Clovis Unified Educators