February 22, 2016

Eric Heins, President
California Teachers Association
P.O. Box 921
Burlingame, CA 94011-0921

Dear Mr. Hines:

Subject: Solidarity with California Teachers

On behalf of the 41,000 members of the British Columbia Teachers’ Federation, I am writing to express our strong support for the California Teachers Association in your Supreme Court case *Friedrichs vs. California Teachers Association*.

We stand with you in this court case because we understand how fundamentally important collective bargaining is to improving working and learning conditions in our schools. Our own court case to restore smaller class sizes, provide support for students with special needs, and guarantee levels of specialist teachers will soon be heard in the Supreme Court of Canada.

We strongly support the common sense idea that public employees should pay their fair share for the employment representation they receive. We know that in jurisdictions where this is not the case, the long-term impact on families and their communities is often devastating.

If the court overturns the 1977 *Abood vs. Detroit Board of Education* ruling, it will be a victory for anti-union forces and their wealthy corporate backers, but a huge loss for your students, your schools, and for the future of public education in the United States. We sincerely hope that the Supreme Court will choose the sensible and wise path of upholding the current law.

You can be certain that the teachers of BC stand firmly with you in your struggle. We support your efforts and we applaud the determination of California’s teachers in this crucial battle.

In solidarity,

Jim Iker
President