As 1% of Americans control a third of the nation’s wealth, we are the 99%.

It’s time to put our students and schools first. While banks are being bailed out, the middle class and poor are being shut out.

The health of California’s public schools and colleges depends on stable tax revenues. We believe the only way out of our current economic crisis is to invest in public education and create job opportunities for America’s working class.

Who Really Pays Taxes in California

- The poorest one-fifth of Californians spend 11.8% of their income on state taxes, while the wealthiest 1 percent pay just 7.8%.

- In the last seven years, corporate income has grown over 400%, while personal income for the middle class has grown just 28%.

California Is Falling Behind

Since the economic downturn four years ago, California has cut more than $20 billion from schools and colleges and laid off more than 40,000 educators. College tuition has more than doubled and students are being priced out of a higher education.

California ranks 46th in the U.S. in K-12 spending per student. We spent $2,856 less per student in 2010-11 than did the rest of the nation — a spending gap that is four times wider than it was a decade earlier, when the state lagged behind by $691 per student.

Other rankings: California is last in the nation in the number of students per teacher (20.5) and per librarian (5,489), 49th in the number of students per guidance counselor (810) and 46th in the number of students per administrator (301).

Enough is enough

It’s time to put Main Street before Wall Street, and make sure everyone is paying their fair share.

Learn more about CTA’s tax fairness campaign at www.cta.org/taxfairness.