

From the press conference announcing the filing of a class-action lawsuit against the CTA and CFA unions to block funds for anti-Schwarzenegger electioneering:

Statement by California State Senator Tom McClintock

September 22, 2005 (Sacramento, California)

I am here to voice my support for the teachers who have had the courage to stand up to the teachers' union by filing this lawsuit.

All citizens have the fundamental right to contribute their earnings to the political cause or candidate of their own choice. NO ONE – no matter how powerful or politically well connected – has the right to seize the earnings of one person to give to a political cause or candidate of somebody else's choice.

It takes enormous courage for rank and file teachers to assert their individual rights and to stand up to the union bosses, and I take my hat off to these people here today. One teacher who was highly critical of the union explained today in the Victorville Daily Press why he didn't want to be quoted. He said, "Some union reps have long memories and retaliation is alive and well."

These teachers with us today are willing to stand up to the new schoolyard bullies of our public schools – not because it is pleasant, but because somebody has to. They are fighting for freedom of choice and freedom of conscience in our academic institutions. And they are fighting for the right of every one of us to make our own decisions according to our own best lights – free from coercion or in this case, from outright theft.

These are the real heroes of our age – individual citizens who are willing to stand up to powerful special interests – no matter

what threats of retaliation they face as a result -- in order to restore our fundamental freedoms as Americans. I am proud to be here to stand with them.