AB 392 passes Legislative committee hearing

A CFA-sponsored bill to amend the legal standard of police use of deadly force in California passed the Assembly Committee on Public Safety Tuesday during a hearing that drew massive crowds to the Legislature.

AB 392, the “California Act to Save Lives”, would update police use of force protocols to ensure officers avoid the use of deadly force at every possible opportunity. In 2017, police killed 172 people in California, most of whom were unarmed. AB 392, authored by Assemblymembers Shirley Weber and Kevin McCarty, also would require that officers use de-escalation tactics.

“The need for reform is clear and long overdue, and it’s time to enact a policy that preserves the sanctity of human life,” said Dr. Weber, a former San Diego State Professor and CFA member.

Faculty and students were among hundreds who declared support for the bill, and cheered its passage Tuesday. CFA is among several sponsors of the AB 392. The bill now moves to the Rules Committee.

Current law regarding police use of deadly force has not been updated since 1872, and is the oldest un-amended use of force statute in the country. It also disproportionately impacts communities of color, who have grown increasingly fearful of police, witnesses and legislators acknowledged.

Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove relayed an emotional personal account of her interaction with police, who were in her house responding to an alarm having been set off when she got home one day. Voice shaking, Kamlager-Dove described how she started crying when she realized she feared the officers.

“If I am traumatized in my own middle-class home, then we must acknowledge the pain and fear and trauma that communities of Black, brown, Asian, poor, mentally ill, LGBTQ, must recognize every day,” Kamlager-Dove said.

To read more about AB 392 and CFA’s advocacy, click here.
Students to focus on “No Harm, Disarm” during week of action

Students for Quality Education (SQE) chapters throughout the state will be holding actions April 15-19 to bolster awareness of their “No Harm, Disarm” campaign and in recognition of the two-year anniversary of a Humboldt State student’s murder near campus.

SQE is a student program of CFA.

The week of action coincides with the April 15 anniversary of the death of David Josiah Lawson, who was killed at a party near campus in 2017. His murder remains unsolved, despite efforts by a coalition of family, faculty, students and community members to seek justice in his case. Read more about those efforts here.

Next week, students will hold vigils, workshops, town hall meetings, teach-ins, and community discussions. The goal is to broaden understanding of SQE’s demand that the CSU administration disarm police, invest in mental health counselors and intervention teams, create Black resource centers and provide unconscious bias training for campus police and security.

For a listing of events by campus, click here.

Sacramento City, UC educators preparing to strike

CFA is standing in solidarity with educators and university workers who are planning to strike this week.

In the UC system, AFSCME 3299 members have been fighting for a contract for two years, and the ULP Committee has unanimously decided to call for a strike on April 10 at 17 campus and medical center locations throughout the state. Click here to get involved.

According to AFSCME, the UC has broken the law by failing to prevent or denounce a supervisor’s attack on picketing workers, discouraging members from joining the strike, and campaigning for members to quit the union.

We issued a statement of support for AFSCME 3299 members. “…We understand the divide and conquer strategies that management employs, and we support our union siblings of the UC System in their efforts to secure stable and supportive working conditions and fair and just compensation. As faculty, we understand that without staff support, we cannot achieve the fundamental mission of providing quality public higher education to the students of California.”

Sacramento teachers also are preparing to hold a one-day strike on Thursday, April 11 due to unfair labor practices and failed mediation attempts with the district. Members of the Sacramento City Teachers Association, an affiliate of CTA, voted last month to authorize the one-day strike.
SCTA will be holding a “Kids First Rally” at 12 pm (noon) on Thursday at the Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Sacramento. Several members of CFA’s Capitol Chapter are planning to join K-12 colleagues at the rally and on the picket line.

“Our fellow teachers were with us when we were fighting for fair salaries and working conditions in the CSU, and we will likewise be with them as they fight to improve learning conditions for their students,” said Margarita Berta-Ávila, CFA Capitol Chapter President and a Professor at Sacramento State. “For faculty, this hits close to home as these are our children’s teachers, and the students in those classrooms grow up to be students in our own classrooms. Our SCTA colleagues truly do teach the future, and they deserve a fair contract.”

Click here for more information.

Faculty Rights Tip: Grievance Filing

Did you know that you have 42 days to file a grievance if you believe your workplace rights have been violated?

Article 10.4 allows you to file a grievance no later than 42 calendar days after the event giving rise to the grievance or 42 days after you knew or reasonably should have known of the event giving rise to the grievance.

Once you believe your contractual rights might have been violated do not wait; contact your campus representative immediately. Click here for a list of faculty rights chapter representatives.

• Browse the faculty contract.
• See an archive of Faculty Rights Tips.
• If you have questions about a faculty rights tip or would like to suggest a tip, please write us with the subject line “Faculty Rights Tip.”

In Other News…

BUDGET TALKS: CFA members and students spoke to California senators about the need for improved mental health support for CSU students, increased enrollment, and more tenure-track faculty during a budget hearing Thursday.

The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 1 on Education hearing focused on the CSU, which would receive an additional $562 million in funding under Gov. Gavin Newsom’s budget proposal.

Click here to read more about CFA’s budget advocacy.

Faculty and students will be lobbying legislators to support the increased funding for the CSU, specific allocation requests, and CFA-sponsored bills during our Lobby Day event at the Capitol on April 29-30. Click here to get involved with your chapter!
Links of the Week

‘Impossible standard?’ Police oppose it, but California use-of-force bill advances
Sacramento Bee
Mothers, brothers, sisters and friends of police shooting victims showed up at the Capitol on Tuesday — wearing t-shirts with their loved ones’ names, their organizations’ slogans and “Let us Live” hats — to tearfully share their stories and send a message to California lawmakers: Pass Assembly Bill 392.

San Jose State Will Build a Parking Structure on Hallowed Ground
The Nation
San Jose State, once known as Speed City, was home to the most legendary track-and-field team of the 20th century. The SJSU Spartans included Tommie Smith, Lee Evans, and John Carlos, the Olympic-medal-winning icons of the 1968 games in Mexico City. Smith and Evans set world records in the 200 and 400 meters, and Smith and Carlos, of course, became iconic when they raised their fists on the 200-meter-medal stand.

U of California Academic Researchers Unionize
Inside Higher Education
Academic researchers within the University of California system, who have formed a union affiliated with the United Auto Workers, reached an agreement with the administration about their new kind of unit. Project scientists, specialists, professional researchers and coordinators of public programs will be included. Visiting titles will be reserved for those researchers who have an appointment elsewhere. The system says it will begin contract negotiations with the union next month, once California’s Public Employment Relations Board certifies the unit. A majority of the system’s 5,000 academic researchers signed cards indicating their preference for a union, which were submitted to the state board in the fall.

How College Professors Turned Into Uber Drivers
Washington Monthly
By now, most Americans are well acquainted with the “gig” economy. Companies reclassify their employees as contractors, thereby shedding costs and responsibilities for workplace rights and benefits. Uber is the prime example. The company claims to be a technology platform rather than an employer, transforming and upending the traditional relationship that a taxi company has with its staff and making drivers cheap, disposable widgets.

#UFWToo. Union head Teresa Romero wants us to remember the farmworkers
Sacramento Bee
She’s the first woman to lead the fabled United Farm Workers union, which was established nearly 60 years ago by César Chávez, perhaps the best known Mexican American in U.S. history. Teresa Romero is also the granddaughter of a Zapotec woman whose indigenous lineage predates the Spanish conquest of the nation of Mexico.

* * *

Join CFA’s Facebook page
For the latest news, follow CFA on Twitter
Check out CFA YouTube