

Buffalo Forum



Local Publication of the
U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization

Workers of all countries, unite!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Elections 2016..... 1-5
- Obama Visits Cuba..... 6-8
- Puerto Rican Students Protest..... 9
- Police Killings 10
- Boston Students Walk Out..... 11
- Refuse the State Tests 12-16

March 18, 2016

Vol. 20 #3

HOLDING CENTER RESPONSIBLE

Justice for India Cummings

India Cummings a 27-year old African American woman was recently arrested, jailed and denied medical care at the Erie County Holding Center for 16 days. Her medical distress was evident at her arraignment, as she did not recognize her mother. Family was not able to visit her while she was in the Holding Center. When she was finally taken to the hospital she had a broken arm, broken ribs, severe dehydration, a blood clot in her leg, and clearly had not received nourishment for days. She died in the hospital a few days after being admitted. The Sheriff's Department maneuvered to have her released from custody when she was admitted, as part of trying to hide their direct responsibility for her death.

Several demonstrations have taken place at the Holding Center, demanding *Justice for India Now* and that Sheriff Howard resign and all those

Justice for India Cummings • 10

DYSFUNCTIONAL SYSTEM

Primaries Showing it is Time for a Democracy of Our Own Making

As the primary elections continue to unfold, the dysfunction of the system and its undemocratic quality is further revealing itself. So too are the dangers posed by intensifying conflicts among the rulers and the necessity for a new direction for political affairs, for a democracy of our

own making.

One aspect of elections is to keep the people out of power, while using the vote to provide the government with legitimacy, or at least the appearance of it. The vote serves to authorize the government to rule.

Democracy of Our Own Making • 3

REPUBLICAN OFFICIAL

The Party Chooses the Nominee, Not the Voters

A member of the Republican National Committee's Rules Committee said recently that the party will decide who the GOP nominee will be, not the voters.

"The media has created the perception that the voters will decide the nomination," Carly Haugland said in an interview with CNBC. "The political parties choose their nominees, not the general public, contrary

Party Chooses Nominee • 3

PRIMARIES SHOW

Increasing Conflicts Among Rulers Spells Danger

The primaries are revealing the intensifying conflicts among the rich, evidenced especially among Republicans. One significant aspect of this is the contending authorities. This can be seen in several recent examples:

The House Judiciary Committee on March 16 approved a bill concerning refugees that would give local and state

Danger of Increasing Conflicts • 4

SUCCESSFUL EVENT AT BUFFALO STATE

Movement to Refuse Receivership and State Tests Strengthened

On March 12 a diverse crowd of 100 high school and university students, parents, teachers, university professors and school board members came together to oppose the Common Core state tests and the state takeover of public

schools, using receivership. While the majority of participants were from Buffalo, a number from suburban areas also participated. A main aim of the event was to increase the unity and scope of those

Successful Event • 6

STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Refuse the Common Core State Tests!

The New York State Common Core state tests will be administered in April to 3-8 graders. The Governor's own Task Force found that these tests need to be significantly overhauled, may be developmentally inappropriate, are too

long, and need to be designed by educators with input from parents. That is, they are invalid. But instead of stopping the testing until the overhaul can be done, the state is imposing them on students.

Refuse State Tests • 13

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Chicagoans Stop Trump Rally at Public University



More than fifteen thousand Chicagoans took their stand against the open racism and anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant claims of Donald Trump, preventing him from holding a campaign rally at the public University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) campus March 11. Many rejected the provocation by Trump to choose a public university with many national minority students and immigrants, for his rally. The many thousands went into their auditorium where the event was being held, chanting and demanding Trump be silenced. Many more rallied outside. All took their stand that racists like Trump, who back up their words with actions, do not have the right to speak.

Before Trump's arrival, students and faculty demanded that the administration cancel the event, insisting that their public campus was no place for racists to speak. As well, more than 50,000 people signed a petition demanding the event be canceled, saying it had no place in Chicago, "especially not at an institution of higher learning."

The response of the UIC administration represents the kind of public-private partnerships being imposed on public schools and universities. The school's chancellor, Michael Amiridis, said that the school was continuing its tradition of hosting campaign events on campus, and a candidate could not be excluded "because of the views he or she expresses."

A Trump spokesperson said, while people "certainly have their right to free speech, this is a private rally paid for by Mr. Trump."

How is it that a public university, funded by the public and its students, agrees to host a private event and turn the public space into one controlled by private interests like Trump? The demonstrators were showing that public space needs to remain public and in service of the public and the public good, not private interests, whether candidates or corporations. The campus also had a large police presence beginning at 6am, including the Secret Service and FBI, in the name of "protecting" this private rally, and paid for by the public.

Further, by endorsing such a private event, the university administration also accepted that Trump could demand that police remove protesters, as he has done elsewhere. Police follow his orders in the name of it being a "private" event. Consistent with this a Trump spokesperson told supporters that if they see a protester, they could notify law enforcement by placing a rally sign over their head and chanting "Trump, Trump, Trump."

The many thousands who defiantly protested rejected this notion that their public university did not belong to them and that police protecting Trump could prevent their protest. They stayed in large numbers, inside and outside the UIC Pavilion, chanted and rallied and forced the event to be canceled.

I • DEMOCRACY OF OUR OWN MAKING

But in the current situation, the primaries are revealing the establishment, and the electoral process itself, as illegitimate. A Republican top official openly said, the parties select the candidate, not the voters. And even if Trump secured a majority, a different candidate, including one that had not run in the primaries, could be chosen. As well, various Republican leaders and elected officials are openly claiming they will not back Trump. They are working together to use the party convention in July as the means to block Trump (see p.6). This includes not only getting delegates to vote for different candidates, contrary to the primary vote, but changing rules so that a “compromise” like Romney, or Bush, can be nominated.

All of this is only further undermining the elections as a means to legitimate rule — and use of force — by the rich.

Even before the primaries began the large majority of people have expressed their dissatisfaction with an election process where billionaires openly decide the outcome and votes do not count. Trump is only able to run because he is a billionaire. The Sanders campaign, which has said it is the votes that should decide, is also now planning to try and win by securing the superdelegates. As he put it, he and his campaign are “going to do the best we can in any and every way to win.” There

are no principles of democracy involved, just winning “in any and every way we can.” Clinton from the start organized to secure the superdelegates and has no difficulty getting millions in funds from and doing the bidding of, the super rich.

The entire delegate process, much like the electoral college in the actual presidential election, are means to block voters from actually deciding the outcome. They are one part of a complex process, that varies from state to state, designed to keep the people out of power and the rich in. This includes the difficulties in getting on the ballot, the need for millions to run for office, the unequal treatment by the monopoly media, the mudslinging and



gutter character of campaigns, and more. What is needed instead is a straight forward, democratic process that empowers the people themselves to elect and be elected — to govern and decide. How to bring that about is what is on the agenda at this time, so that the broad anger that exists is directed in a manner that favors the people.

I • PARTY CHOOSES NOMINEE

to popular belief,” he added.

Haugland, one of the party’s unbound delegates that can decide who they want to vote for, also argued that the party could block Trump even if he wins 1,237 delegates — a majority — through the primaries.

This could occur if the rules are changed for requirements for a nominee, which currently includes winning 8 states. Haugland, as a member of the rules committee, knows such changes can be made. Others are also discussing the possibility of bringing in a nominee who did not participate in the primaries. All that is needed is a rules change by the committee, not the convention delegates as a whole.

Democrats Also Maneuvering

The situation with the Democrats is also underlining the undemocratic nature of the use of delegates and superdelegates instead of a straight vote and one where every vote counts. Clinton is expected to secure the nomination and do so in part by securing the large majority of the superdelegates, who are not bound by the primary votes. While Republicans only have about 7 percent of their delegates not bound to votes in the states, Democrats have about 25 percent. Democrats also have a much larger convention, with 4,765 delegates this year and 2,383 needed to secure the nomination.

The Bernie Sanders campaign has,

from the beginning, emphasized that the voters, not party officials, should choose the candidate. However now, given he is very likely to lose to Clinton, he too is talking about trying to win by convincing superdelegates to side with him and not Clinton. Clinton currently has pledges from 467 superdelegates to Sanders’ 26.

When asked directly about it, Sanders said, he and his campaign are “going to do the best we can in any and every way to win.” He added, “I think it is probably the case that the candidate who has the most pledged delegates is going to be the candidate, but there are other factors.”

In this manner, it is clear winning is everything, the vote nothing.

New Bill Would Turn GOP's Xenophobic Rhetoric About Refugees Into Law

Murtaza Hussain, The Intercept, March 17 2016

The House Judiciary Committee on March 16 approved a bill that would reduce the already small number of refugees allowed into the United States, and effectively codify the bigotry of Donald Trump and other GOP candidates.

The Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act (H.R. 4731) proposed by Raul Labrador, R-Idaho, and Bob Goodlatte, R-Virginia, would impose new caps on refugee resettlement limits, discriminate on religious grounds, redefine the word "refugee," and give local and state governments broad powers to refuse resettlement.

In ordinary circumstances, the question of how many refugees America accepts is made at the executive level. President Obama has set a target for accepting 100,000



refugees into the United States in fiscal year 2017. This bill, however, would effectively take the decision out of his hands by imposing a hard limit of 60,000 refugees in 2017, even as the world is dealing with the biggest refugee crisis since World War II.

But other provisions included in H.R. 4731 would make it hard for the government to even reach that reduced target.

According to the text of the bill, state and municipal level government officials could refuse refugees through "any action formally disapproving of resettlement in that locality." This provision effectively grants veto power over resettlement to local officials. Such a provision could greatly complicate any resettlement program.

The bill also creates a new definition of who is a refugee by stating that protection from violence would not be offered, "if that violence is not specifically directed at the person." For Syrians and others, the violence of the war is not directed at them as "individuals," but rather is occurring as part of a broader conflict.

New Refugee Bill • 11

I • DANGER OF INCREASING CONFLICTS

authorities power to reject settlement of refugees. Currently the federal government has sole authority in such matters.

A sheriff in North Carolina threatened to charge Trump with inciting to riot after he encouraged his supporters to target protesters at his rally, with a protester being punched in the face. While the sheriff eventually declined, the fact that he made public possible charges reflects the contention in conditions that are out of control. The rich initially let Trump run as a means to try to divide the public and whip up antagonisms. But having done so, the situation is now out of their control. Indeed, they are now acting to try and block Trump.

Additionally, 100 "national security leaders" among the Republicans wrote an open letter saying they would not back Trump if he becomes the nominee. Trump in turn responded that if he is robbed of the nomination at the convention, there will be riots.

Retired Air Force General Hayden, who was George W. Bush's NSA and CIA head, said the military would not follow orders from Trump. He specifically referred to threats by Trump to kill family

members of suspected terrorists.

These open statements by military and national security forces, who have connections to various armed forces, reflect contending authorities, none of which serve the public. What remains at this point are police powers, and growing contention of who can and will use them.

The dysfunction of the system and chaos unleashed by the rulers is such that the public authority, based on a government of laws, has been wrecked. The Office of the President continually acts against the laws, such as through drone warfare, torture, indefinite detention, massive spying, terrorizing of Muslims and unlawful treatment of refugees and immigrants, especially children. The genocide of mass incarceration, racist police killings and brutality, criminalizing of dissent, also all act to eliminate a public authority and its responsibility to the public good.

The elections, which are supposed to sort out conflicts among the rulers short of a hot civil war, instead are intensifying them. The danger is not so much with Trump himself, but with the inability of the rich to resolve their conflicts. And

with their readiness to resort to use of force as a means to come out on top. It is a situation of contending authorities, within the military and federal police forces, as well as between federal state and local authorities. All have police powers of varying kinds. This contention could become openly violent.

It falls to the working class to lead the way out of this dangerous situation. Advancing the fight for a modern democracy that empowers the people themselves to govern provides a way forward. There is no need for the complex process of elections that currently exists and that serves to keep the people out of power. What is needed is public funding of the process, not the candidates. And a political process that informs the public, where it is the agenda of the people, not the rich, that is debated and solutions put forward. An informed public and a straight forward vote for their own worker politicians representing the people's anti-war, pro-social agenda is the process needed. It is an expanded and modern democracy of our own making that is needed. This is a fight of the here and now that can and must be won.

Maneuvering for a Contested GOP Convention — Another Sign of an Anti-Democratic System

Various Republican (GOP) advisors and leaders are promoting the idea of a contested, or brokered, convention as the best way to prevent Donald Trump from becoming the nominee for the Republicans. Numerous forces, like Bush family advisor Karl Rove, as well as “national security leaders,” retired military and various elected officials have all put forward that they would not support Trump if he becomes the Republican nominee. To block that, they are also now maneuvering to ensure a contested convention. This occurs when no candidate secures a majority of delegates (not votes, delegates) before the convention. For Republicans there are 2,472 delegates, so the number needed for a majority is 1,237. Trump currently has 678, Cruz 423 and Kasich 143. There are 1049 delegates still to be decided, with some states being winner take all, others proportional, others winner take all by district, etc. Republicans also have “unbound” delegates, not bound by the primary vote, which make up about 7 percent of the total.

A contested convention means there are several rounds, or ballots, of voting at the convention until one candidate secures a majority. For most states, regulations determined by the parties and the state require delegates to vote according to the primary results on the first ballot. Some states release delegates on the first ballot. In Pennsylvania, for instance, 17 of the 71 delegates go to the state winner. The rest may vote however they choose.

Many states allow their delegates to vote as they choose on the second ballot and almost all are free to vote as they choose by the third ballot. Of course, various forces vying for a set result put pressure on the delegates to “choose” as they are told.

Then there are also the delegates won by candidates no longer in the race. Delegates secured by Rubio, for example, 172, are free to decide how to vote even on the first ballot. There are also rules that can be made, or changed, by the Rules Committee, made up mainly of top

functionaries, right at the convention, that could also impact how delegates vote. So for example, rules could be changed so that a “compromise” candidate, chosen by the top leaders, who did not even run in the primaries, like Mitt Romney, or did not do well, like Jeb Bush, could be chosen.

Republican leaders are hoping to use all the various means to block Trump from securing a majority on the first ballot, then convince delegates secured by Trump during the primaries to abandon him for a different candidate for the second and/or third ballot, or however many it takes.

The last time a major-party candidate entered a convention without a majority was in 1976. President Gerald Ford had to convince blocs of uncommitted delegates to back him over challenger Ronald Reagan, which he did on the first ballot. The last time a convention went beyond one ballot was in 1952, when Democrats chose Adlai Stevenson on the third ballot. For Republicans, the last time there was a need for a second ballot was 1948. This is indicative of the fact that generally conventions have become staged events for the selected nominee, not the place for floor fights and maneuvering.

While delegates are in part awarded on the basis of the primary votes, who they actually are and how they are selected varies from state to state. So the various forces among the rulers vying to block Trump are now maneuvering to get their slates of delegates selected, so as to ensure they do not vote for Trump on the second ballot. These various forces have much stronger connections to the party machinery at the state level, where the actual people who will be delegates are chosen. They are thus in a better position to secure the delegates they want than Trump is.

At the same time, party machinery in general is not as powerful or as functional



as in the past. So in actuality, the fight is by various individual leaders, like Rove and others in the military and national security apparatus, to secure slates of delegates. But these contending forces generally have the common aim to block Trump. And, as many have said, such as the 100 top “national security leaders who signed a letter openly stating it, if they do not block Trump, they will not back him as a candidate.

The entire process, using delegates instead of a direct voter, how the delegates are decided, who they are, rules that can be changed, and so forth, is a complex one that varies from state to state and mainly serves the purpose of blocking votes from counting. It is an undemocratic set up where even the small percentage of people who do vote in the primaries do not have their votes count.

The contest is not about the people and their demands, but rather of factions vying for the prize of president and the police powers concentrated in the office — which the most powerful rulers are not willing to give to Trump. But openly maneuvering in this manner is only further removing any legitimacy for a political process the people are already angered and dissatisfied with. The primaries are making clear that the just anger people have with where the existing establishment is taking the country can best be utilized in the fight for a new electoral process and new direction for political affairs, a direction toward political empowerment of the people.

Human Rights Hypocrisy: US Criticizes Cuba

Marjorie Cohn, Marjorie Cohn's Blog

In advance of President Barack Obama's historic visit to Cuba on March 20, there is speculation about whether he can pressure Cuba to improve its human rights. But a comparison of Cuba's human rights record with that of the United States shows that the US should be taking lessons from Cuba.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains two different general categories of human rights — civil and political rights on the one hand; and economic, social and cultural rights on the other.

Civil and political rights include the rights to life, free expression, freedom of religion, fair trial, self-determination; and to be free from torture, cruel treatment, and arbitrary detention.

Economic, social and cultural rights comprise the rights to education, health-care, social security, unemployment insurance, paid maternity leave, equal pay for equal work, reduction of infant mortality; prevention, treatment and control of diseases; and to form and join unions and strike.

These human rights are enshrined in two treaties — the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The United States has ratified the ICCPR.

But the U.S. refuses to ratify the ICESCR. Since the Reagan administration, it has been U.S. policy to define human rights only as civil and political rights. Economic, social and cultural rights are dismissed as akin to social welfare, or socialism.

The U.S. government criticizes civil and political rights in Cuba while disregarding Cubans' superior access to universal housing, health care, education, and its guarantee of paid maternity leave and equal pay rates.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government has committed serious human rights violations on Cuban soil, including torture, cruel treatment, and arbitrary detention at Guantánamo. And since 1960, the United States has expressly interfered

with Cuba's economic rights and its right to self-determination through the economic embargo.

The US embargo of Cuba, now a blockade, was initiated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower during the Cold War in response to a 1960 memo written by a senior State Department official. The memo proposed "a line of action that makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and the overthrow of the [Castro] government."

That goal has failed, but the punishing blockade has made life difficult in Cuba. In spite of that inhumane effort, however, Cuba guarantees its people a remarkable panoply of human rights.

Healthcare

Unlike in the United States, healthcare is a right in Cuba. Universal healthcare is free to all. Cuba has the highest ratio of doctors to patients in the world at 6.7 per 1,000 people. The 2014 infant mortality rate was 4.2 per 1,000 live births — one of the lowest in the world.

Healthcare in Cuba emphasizes prevention, rather than relying only on medicine, partly due to the limited access to medicines occasioned by the U.S. blockade. In 2014, the *Lancet Journal* said, "If the accomplishments of Cuba could be reproduced across a broad range of poor and middle-income countries the health of the world's population would be transformed." Cuba has developed pioneering medicines to treat and prevent lung cancer, and prevent diabetic amputations. Because of the blockade, however, we in the United States cannot take advantage of them.

Education

Free education is a universal right up to and including higher education. Cuba spends a larger proportion of its GDP on education than any other country in the world. "Mobile teachers" are deployed to homes if children are unable to attend school. Many schools provide free morn-

ing and after-school care for working parents who have no extended family. It is free to train to be a doctor in Cuba. There are 22 medical schools in Cuba, up from only 3 in 1959 before the Cuban Revolution.

Elections

Elections to Cuba's national parliament (the National Assembly) take place every five years and elections to regional Municipal Assemblies every 2.5 years. Delegates to the National Assembly then elect the Council of State, which in turn appoints the Council of Ministers from which the President is elected.

As of 2018 (the date of the next general election in Cuba), there will be a limit of no more than two five-year terms for all senior elected positions, including the President. Anyone can be nominated to be a candidate. It is not required that one be a member of the Communist Party (CP). No money can be spent promoting candidates and no political parties (including the CP) are permitted to campaign during elections. Military personnel are not on duty at polling stations; school children guard the ballot boxes.

Labor Rights

Cuban law guarantees the right to voluntarily form and join trade unions. Unions are legally independent and financially autonomous, independent of the CP and the state, funded by members' subscriptions. Workers' rights protected by unions include a written contract, a 40-44-hour week, and 30 days' paid annual leave in the state sector.

Unions have the right to stop work they consider dangerous. They have the right to participate in company management, to receive management information, to office space and materials, and to facility time for representatives. Union agreement is required for lay-offs, changes in patterns of working hours, overtime, and the annual safety report. Unions also have a political role in Cuba and have a constitutional right to be consulted about employment

U.S. Human Rights Hypocrisy • 7

Statement by Federation of Cuban Women on Obama's Visit

Buffalo Forum salutes the Cuban people and her revolution which have stood firm and defiant against all U.S. efforts to defeat them. Obama's visit is occurring as a result of this strength. Whatever U.S. imperialism has in store, we are confident the Cuban people and their leadership will defend and strengthen their sovereignty and revolution. We reprint below the statement by the Cuban Federation of Women on the occasion of Obama's visit March 20.

* * *

With the hospitality and dignity that characterizes us Cuban women, just as all of our people, we will receive the President of the United States, Barack Obama, and his wife Michelle. We are aware that this visit is part of the complex process to nor-

malize relations between our two governments. It will, therefore, be an opportunity to demonstrate what we have achieved in terms of gender equality and the leading role that women occupy in the political, economic, cultural and social life of our country.

During their visit, they will note that we receive equal pay for equal work, that local governments in nine of the fifteen Cuban provinces are headed by women, [and] that the administration of justice is also mostly in female hands. In each place they tour they will discover the selfless efforts of women of all generations.



They will witness just how much we love our free and independent country, which we have defended from attacks of all kinds. With creativity and dedication, we have resisted more than half a century of economic, financial and commercial blockade, and we have built a society

Federation of Cuban Women • 8

6 • U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS HYPOCRISY

law. They also have the right to propose new laws to the National Assembly.

Women

Women make up the majority of Cuban judges, attorneys, lawyers, scientists, technical workers, public health workers and professionals. Cuba is ranked first in Save the Children's "Lesser Developed Countries" Mother's Index. With over 48 percent women MPs, Cuba has the third highest percentage of female parliamentarians in the world. Women receive 9 months of full salary during paid maternity leave, followed by 3 months at 75 percent of full salary. The government subsidizes abortion and family planning, places a high value on pre-natal care, and offers "maternity housing" to women before giving birth.

Life Expectancy

In 2013, the World Health Organization listed life expectancy for women in Cuba at 80; the figure was 77 for men. The probability of dying between ages 15 and 60 years per 1,000 people in the population was 115 for men and 73 for women in Cuba.

During the same period, life expectancy for women in the United States was 81 for

women and 76 for men. The probability of dying between 15 and 60 per 1,000 people was 128 for men and 76 for women in the United States.

Death Penalty

A study by Cornell Law School found no one under sentence of death in Cuba and no one on death row in October 2015. On December 28, 2010, Cuba's Supreme Court commuted the death sentence of Cuba's last remaining death row inmate, a Cuban-American convicted of a murder carried out during a 1994 terrorist invasion of the island. No new death sentences are known to have been imposed since that time.

By contrast, as of January 1, 2016, 2,949 people were on death row in state facilities in the United States. And 62 were on federal death row as of March 16, 2016, according to Death Penalty Information.

Sustainable Development

In 2016, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), a leading global environmental organization, found that Cuba was the only country in the world to have achieved sustainable development. Jonathan Loh, one of the authors of the WWF report, said, "Cuba

has reached a good level of development according to United Nations' criteria, thanks to its high literacy level and a very high life expectancy, while the ecological footprint is not large since it is a country with low energy consumption."

Stop Lecturing Cuba and Lift the Blockade

When Cuba and the U.S. held talks about human rights a year ago, Pedro Luis Pedroso, head of the Cuban delegation, said, "We expressed our concerns regarding discrimination and racism patterns in U.S. society, the worsening of police brutality, torture acts and extra-judicial executions in the fight on terror and the legal limbo of prisoners at the U.S. prison camp in Guantánamo."

The hypocrisy of the U.S. government in lecturing Cuba about its human rights while denying many basic human rights to the American people is glaring. The United States should lift the blockade. Obama should close Guantánamo and return it to Cuba.

(Marjorie Cohn is professor of criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence and international human rights law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.)

We Will Never Renounce the Unity Achieved by Our Workers

Cuban Workers' Federation

The more than three million members of unions affiliated with the Cuban Workers' Federation (CTC), as part of Cuban civil society, will welcome the President of the United States with hospitality and respect. We appreciate his decision to travel to our country, as an important step in efforts to advance toward the normalization of relations between the two countries.

He will discover a nation where workers have been able, at great sacrifice, to push ahead in the most diverse sectors of the economy and services, despite the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on us for more than half a century by successive U.S. administrations, and which is still in place, constituting the main obstacle to our development.

He will learn of a labor reality character-

ized by the right to employment without discrimination of any kind, equal pay for women and men performing the same job, social security which includes among other benefits the protection of working mothers and pensioners, and a unique system of labor justice that includes the broad participation of workers when settling disputes.

Even in the most complex economic circumstances, these rights have been preserved and shock therapy has never been resorted to, as is common in other nations seeking a solution to crises. Drawn upon instead has been the intelligence and capacity to respond of the hard-working masses, who have made available their experiences and resources, their creativity and innovative thinking, to overcome the difficulties and ensure compliance with the plans of their

respective collectives.

We work with resolve to perfect our economic and social model in the pursuit of a prosperous and sustainable socialism. With this purpose the increasing number of non-state sector workers, who are consciously joining the ranks of trade unions, and along with workers in the state sector, are convinced they are an important element in the construction of the present and the future of our social project, based on collective welfare. They are also protected by our Labor Code.

On this visit, the President will be accompanied by a broad representation of businesspeople, which could open the way to stable economic ties with U.S. companies. On eliminating restrictions on Cuba, they

Never Renounce Our Unity • 9



7 • FEDERATION OF CUBAN WOMEN

where human beings are the most important factor. We have educated our children in these values of solidarity, anti-imperialism and national sovereignty. We will never renounce such values.

Gathered together in the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), a non-governmental civil society organization — with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) — which today brings together more than four million Cuban women, about 90 percent of women over 14 years of age, we carry out specific programs to develop an entire culture of equality and social inclusion in our country. Many of the objectives outlined in Goal 5 of the [UN's] recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, dedicated to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and

girls, are a reality in our country.

We know that Michelle Obama is carrying out a major initiative called "Let Girls Learn," with the aim of providing access to education to 62 million girls around the world. We offer our humble experience in this field, since one hundred percent of our girls attend school regardless of where they live, the color of their skin, whether they have a disability or are hospitalized. A Cuban, Leonela Relys Díaz, created the "Yes, I Can" method, with which millions of people worldwide have learned to read and write.

Similarly, it will also be an opportunity to reiterate our demand to cease the inhuman policy of blockade against our country, which has led to multiple deprivations, and prevented us from further development.

The Federation of Cuban Women also

supports the statements of our government, which demands an end to the occupation of the territory of the Guantánamo naval base, the Cuban Adjustment Act and the "wet-foot-dry-foot" policy, and the elimination of interventionist programs aimed at provoking internal destabilization. These policies threaten the security and tranquility of our families.

During the coming days, the words of the eternal President of our organization, Vilma Espín, are more relevant than ever for all FMC members: "Socialism for Cuban women means freedom, independence, sovereignty, dignity, social justice, security for the education and development of their children, the right to equality, to life, to decide their own destiny, to work for the future dreamed of and defended with all forces."

Students in Puerto Rico Shut Down University to Defend Right to Education

Thousands of college students from the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras approved a three-day, full-campus shutdown to protest recent budget cuts endangering Puerto Rico's higher education system. After holding a general assembly of more than 4,000 students March 15, where students discussed their concerns and worked out their tactics, students marched through the university and closed all entrances to the campus. The students called for the resignation of top university officials and left open the possibility of an indefinite strike if their demands are not met. The students also called on Puerto Rico to refuse to pay the "unpayable debt" imposed by U.S. financiers.

In July, the government faces a debt payment of \$1.9 billion to Wall Street. It is the debt payments to the financiers that are a main source for cuts to education, healthcare and other vital services in Puerto Rico. The massive debt is one of the means the U.S. uses to control Puerto



Rico and keep her as a colony.

The students are calling on people all over the country to join the protest against the "unpayable debt" and ongoing budget cuts. For the university, more than \$542 million has been cut over the past five years. Every year there are fewer professors, fewer classes and worse conditions. Many teachers are not given permanent positions and instead are on contract, semester to semester. Professors are also supporting the student strike.

Students demanded that instead of paying the debt, the government should make immediate payments to the university, as required. "We must ensure the public funding of the university and

cuts cannot be accepted as a solution to the crisis," said Naphtali Sanchez, representative of education to the negotiating committee that was established in the student assembly.

Students also won the support of Puerto Rican artist René Pérez, best known as Residente of Calle

13, and the reggae band Cultura Profética. Via Twitter, the frontman of Calle 13 echoed the voices of students who took the streets of Puerto Rico to defend their right to education and the only public university in the country.

Meanwhile the "Le da igual" singers took to Facebook to commend the students for their actions. "Once more the students of the University of Puerto Rico are showing us what real discussions should be about. Showing commitment towards education, which should be a non-negotiable right. It's beautiful to see. Cultura Profética is with all of you. Much respect."

8 • NEVER RENOUNCE OUR UNITY

could find space in a nation that is deeply engaged in its economic development, which has already embraced businesspeople from other countries, who have found here the civic order to guarantee their investments and highly qualified [workers] the result of the educational policy of the Revolution which began with the epic literacy campaign, this year celebrating its 55th anniversary, and the access, provided by the state, absolutely free of charge, to the technical or professional training that each citizen is capable

of, according to their abilities.

Cuban workers are proud of our tradition of struggle against exploitation and for social justice that valuable union leaders, such as Jesús Menéndez who fought for the interests of sugar workers and the Cuban nation against U.S. monopolies and representatives of the government of that country, have defended at the cost of their own lives. We are also followers of the legacy of the rightfully termed "Captain" of the Cuban working class, Lázaro Peña, who always

advocated unity and stressed that the union must include everyone.

On this occasion, we reaffirm that we will never renounce the unity achieved by our workers, or our revolutionary, anti-imperialist and social justice ideals, nor our spirit of solidarity with the world's just causes. We hope that the process initiated between the two countries moves ahead on an equal basis, without conditions and with respect for our independence and sovereignty.

MEDIA MISSING THE STORY

Half of All Recent Police-Related Killings Are People with Disabilities

According to a recent report by the Ruderman Family Foundation up to half of all people killed by police in the United States are disabled, and that almost all well-known cases of police brutality involve a person with a disability. The comprehensive study on police-related violence and media coverage in cases involving a person with a disability also showed that the prevalence of disabilities in these killings is not being accurately reported. The report documents that media coverage of police violence fails to recognize or report the disability element when Americans are injured or killed by law enforcement.

The report examines the past three years of media coverage relating to police violence and disability, reviewing eight individual cases against people with disabilities since the death of a young man with Down syndrome named Ethan Saylor in January 2013.

In the vast majority of cases within this timeframe, the research revealed that:

- An estimated 80 percent of all cases that involve disability are categorized as “mental illness”

- A medical condition or “mental illness” is used to blame victims for their deaths

- Disability goes unmentioned or is listed as an attribute without context

The racism of police, in terms of police killings, brutality, and mass incarceration has been broadly denounced across the country. And while police often blame the victims, or claim they are dangerous, what gets left out of the story is that many have disability and health considerations that need to be recognized and addressed without the use of force.

“Police have become the default responders to mental health calls,” write the report’s authors, historian David Perry and disability expert Lawrence Carter-Long, who analyzed incidents from 2013 to 2015.

The report says police assume that “people with psychiatric disabilities” are “dangerous to themselves and others” and use brutal force to restrain them.

The study found that one in 10 of all police interactions involve people with

mental or physical illness.

In one recent example, the Foundation said the media failed to report that Sandra Bland, the African American woman arrested by a Texas state trooper following a traffic stop, was not only depressed, but also epileptic. While in jail she stopped receiving her epilepsy treatment, another reality confronting those with illnesses who are unjustly jailed.

The report also mentions the Chicago Police killing of LaQuan McDonald, a black teenager gunned down. According to an investigation by the Chicago Tribune newspaper, McDonald suffered from PTSD and “complex mental health problems.”

Police in the United States killed more than 1,150 people in 2015, with the largest police departments, like Chicago, New York and Los Angeles disproportionately killing at least 321 African Americans.

The facts show both the criminal lack of needed healthcare, inside and outside of prison and that police violence and killings are racist and routinely ignore the disabilities of the individuals involved.

I • JUSTICE FOR INDIA CUMMINGS

responsible for India’s death be held accountable. Among other demands are:

- That all violations of the 2010 settlement with the DoJ be publicly reported and immediately rectified.

- That the Erie County Holding Center be fully transparent by releasing documents and video relevant to the death of India Cummings and all other inmates who die in their custody.

India Cummings was contending with a medical difficulty when arrested, but like many at the holding center, denied the care she needed. Indeed, she should not have been taken to jail but rather taken to the hospital to begin with.

It must be remembered that those in the holding center have not been convicted of any crime. They are awaiting trial, often forced to remain in jail because they cannot afford to pay bail.

The Holding Center is notorious for its high suicide rates and lack of medical care. According to a ProPublica report from 2010, “Detainees at the Erie facility kill themselves at a rate five times the national average.” Conditions are so bad the Justice Department (DoJ) investigated and reached a settlement in 2010 requiring changes be made, especially concerning suicides. These changes have largely not occurred. Yet the DoJ has not pursued any criminal charges, even now when yet another preventable death has taken place. The State Commission of Correction will be investigating her death.



Demonstrations continue at the Holding Center, Wednesdays at 5pm.

OPPOSING BUDGET CUTS

More than 2,000 Boston Students Walk Out

Boston students, including elementary and high school students, walked out of class March 6, demanding full funding for their schools and defending their right to education. Sixth graders joined freshman and seniors in condemning the failure of their state legislature to provide the needed funding. As one sixth grader put it, she was worried she would be suspended for walking out, but she was even more worried about what would happen if she did not. She joined thousands as they converged on the Boston Commons in front of the state house.

The students marched through downtown Boston after walking out of class carrying signs and chanting, *What Do We Want? Education!* Large groups from different schools marched into the Common from different directions, all with the same demand to *Fund Our Schools Now! They Say Cut Back, We Say Fight Back!* Thousands joined in despite warnings from the school district opposing the walkout. In some cases, every student in a given class walked out, in others a portion. Together, the students made clear



they are not going to remain silent as their education is decimated.

As is the case across the country, including Chicago, the state is refusing to provide the funds needed and local districts are threatening major cuts. In Chicago they plan to implement them now, during the school year when they will be most destructive. For Boston it is estimated that their budget needs at least another \$50 million.

This latest student walkout on March 6 follows a protest of several hundred parents, teachers, and students in February. They held a rally in downtown Boston. Parents also protested outside of Mayor Marty Walsh's "State of the City" address in January. The large walkout was student-organized and made clear that students do not accept the attacks on their right to education.

4 • NEW REFUGEE BILL

"If you look at the situation in Syria, Russia is bombing entire townships, not singling people out as individuals, but targeting them regardless because they are in a war zone," says Jennifer Quigley of Human Rights First. "The language in this bill is a huge change from existing standards and would drastically narrow the definition of who constitutes a refugee."

During this election cycle, a number of Republican presidential nominees have called for incorporating religious discrimination in the refugee process. H.R. 4731 would compel the Department of Homeland Security to "grant priority consideration to such applicants whose claims are based on persecution ... by reason of those applicants being practitioners of a minority religion in the country from which they sought refuge."

During the present conflict in Syria, the vast majority of refugees come from the

majority Sunni Muslim population, which has also borne the brunt of the government's military crackdown. While they are among the most desperately needy refugees in the world today, because they are not "minorities" in their society, the bill would make it harder for them to gain refuge in the United States. "What this provision is trying to do is stopping the resettlement of Syrian Muslim refugees, by basing acceptance criteria on identity rather than need," says Quigley.

During this election cycle, GOP candidates have seemed to be competing to express the greatest hostility toward refugees. Ted Cruz and others have said that the United States should refuse all refugees except Christians, while Donald Trump recently promised his supporters that he would look Syrian children in the faces and say, "You can't come here."

The xenophobic rhetoric in response to the current refugee crisis is ironic given

the GOP's history. Ronald Reagan, viewed as an icon by most Republicans, famously granted asylum to hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing conflicts in Southeast Asia and Central America, and even invoked America's generous refugee policy in his 1989 presidential farewell speech. Even George W. Bush, who ignited some of the conflicts that people are today fleeing, chose to restart the Refugee Resettlement Program after 9/11.

"Some of the Republicans advocating against refugees today don't know that historically GOP presidents have had welcoming asylum policies toward people fleeing conflicts," says Quigley. "The rhetoric in this presidential campaign is making it easier for legislation like H.R. 4731 to be proposed, but it is also silencing traditional refugee supporters by making them feel uncomfortable about speaking out against it."

Resolution for Our Public Schools

Buffalo Parent Teacher Organization

Whereas the health, well-being, and education of our students is our top priority,

Whereas, Governor Cuomo's Common Core Task Force released a report acknowledging the flawed use of state assessments to evaluate teachers and students and the Board of Regents followed suit voting in support of the recommendations;

Whereas, the New York *Education Transformation Act* requires that teachers be evaluated with state assessment scores, categorizes schools as "failing" and "persistently failing" primarily using state assessments, and places schools under "receivership" which grants decision-making "powers" to a "receiver" and Commissioner of Education;

Whereas, NY State imposed "receivership" with the commitment to provide \$75 million in additional aid to "persistently failing" schools (five Buffalo Public Schools) and with the school year almost half surpassed amid a one year mandate to show "demonstrable improvement" or face takeover by an "independent receiver," these schools have not received any of this aid;

Whereas, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) subjectively determined Buffalo Public Schools as host to the highest percentage of schools (44%) under receivership based on unsound cut scores that are not universally consistent within the district and across the state;

Whereas, Buffalo Public Schools are owed \$107.6 million in state aid since the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was instituted in 2010;

Whereas the leaders who know their communities best are parents, educators, and democratically elected local school board members, not Albany politicians;

Whereas Albany politicians continue to legislate educational changes without listening to parents, students, educators, and school board members;

Whereas the current Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) statute and regulations themselves, defy all research-based evidence regarding best practices of evaluation;

Whereas research says student performance measures should not be used as an exclusive method for teacher evaluations, the present matrix and scoring bands force evaluation precisely into that outcome;

Whereas the present regulations are designed to drive failure, not provide guidance for improved performance;

Whereas more than 200,000 New York State students opted out of standardized tests this year, logically invalidating the use thereof for teacher evaluation;

Be it Hereby Resolved, the Buffalo Parent-Teacher Organization calls on the Buffalo Board of Education and all elected

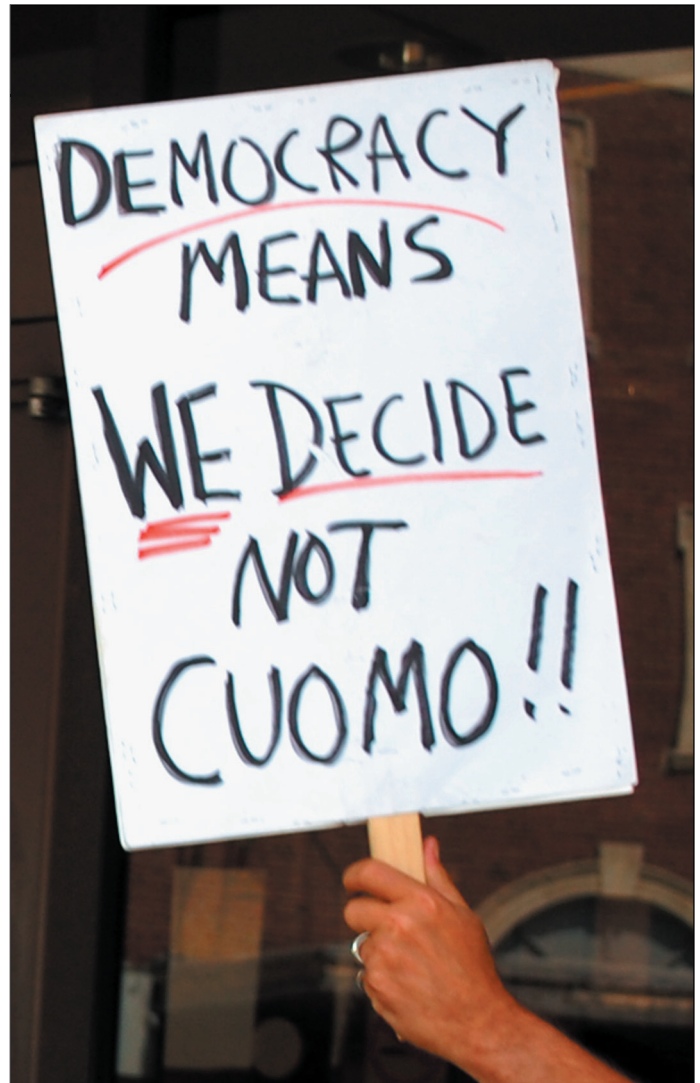
State Legislators & NYSED Officials to support a Pledge for Our Schools that,

Repeals of the Education Transformation Act of 2015, which calls for state takeover of public schools based on invalid state assessments,

Supports legislation that ensures local control of educational curriculum, assessment, and evaluation, not State control of said educational policies,

Rescinds NY State's commitment to Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS), CCLS related assessments and curriculum materials, and the use of CCLS assessments to evaluate schools, students, and teachers alike,

Reinstitutes the Regents Standards



Review and Revision Initiative, which included NY State educators to create new, challenging and appropriate standards for all students,

Adopts NY State Performance Standards Consortium for High Schools to include performance-based assessments statewide,

Fully funds all school districts with proper State Aid, including the \$107.6 million owed to Buffalo Public Schools since the GEA of 2010, and

Upholds Buffalo Public Schools as locally and publicly controlled with whole-child learning and smaller class sizes and necessary intervention and staffing.

I • SUCCESSFUL EVENT

refusing and the audience showed this was achieved.

A second aim was to provide information and views representing the organizing in Buffalo and statewide against state testing and receivership. This was accomplished with a solid group of speakers addressing various aspects of the state testing regime and its impact on learning and governance of the public schools. Speakers from Buffalo, New Paltz, Long Island and the Bronx participated, each addressing the harm of the tests, the significance of organizing to refuse them and the need to reject state takeover. Those from Buffalo especially spoke to the importance of the contributions being made by the struggle here, which is raising the key demand, *Our Schools, Our Rights, We Decide!* Buffalo is leading the way in rejecting receivership, organizing demonstrations against it and informing the public of its right to control the public

schools. Dictate from Albany is no solution and serving to undermine the system of public schools.

Another important aim was to engage the audience in the discussion. This was done by interspersing questions and comments from the audience between speakers. Everyone was encouraged to join in responding to questions and in expressing their own experience and concerns. This resulted in lively exchanges. Combined with the informative presentations the discussion served to develop common thinking on the need to refuse the tests and receivership and encourage others to do the same.

The enthusiasm was such that immediately after the event, parents and teachers began planning more outreach, including into area churches. African American churches in particular have long played an important role in social issues and defending rights and this current

fight for the *Equal Right to Education* is no different. Efforts are continuing to involve more parents and students. The model given by the organizing for March 12 is being utilized, where, on the basis of a plan, 1,000 leaflets and posters were distributed, including in Spanish and Arabic, at high schools, libraries, events, restaurants and stores; participation in radio shows organized; facebook and webpages utilized; announcements made in classrooms; and many discussions with groups and individuals organized. And the scope is being extended further, to involve pastors and additional organizations, while strengthening the unity of university and high school students. All to ensure that a conscious organized force continues to build and strengthen through working and learning together and that students and parents far and wide know, this April, *You Can Refuse State Tests!*

I • REFUSE STATE TESTS

Students, you can choose to refuse! You do not have to take these tests. They do not help you and can harm you, your teachers and schools. So join the more than 200,000 students last year who refused the Common Core tests. Simply have your parent sign a refusal letter (available at nysape.org, from your teachers or parent facilitator).

The state tests do not provide any useful information to the child, parent or teacher. No specific results are provided so students cannot know what they did well on and what they did not. They are also designed to be frustrating, as much of the test is not what was actually taught and many of the questions make no sense, even to adults.

The scoring of the tests is also unfair and invalid. The state determines the cut score for a failing grade *after* they have graded all the tests. And they place it not as would normally occur but so that the large majority fails — last year about 70 percent.

It is not a test designed to assist students and raise the quality of learning. It is designed to punish and humiliate and make children feel they are failures. You can choose to refuse!

The tests also treat children as a number, a 1, 2, 3, or 4, with 1 being the lowest. In

some schools, there are public boards listing children's names and number, which can only serve to humiliate large numbers of children and daily make them feel they are failures. This undermines learning and hides the fact that our children are human beings, not a number and not a score.

It is not our children that are failing, it is our government. It is failing to provide full funding, which includes \$1 billion owed to Buffalo schools. It is failing to provide smaller classes, music, art and physical education, all of which are vital to a child's growth and development as human beings. Our children are not a number, like a prisoner, and they are more than a test score. Take your stand against the harm these tests are doing — You Can Choose to Refuse!

Students take a stand against the testing and organize your fellow students to do the same. On test day, do not take the test, do not mark the test and ask to go to the library or some other location where you can read or study. You have the right to refuse, you do not have to take the test, so don't!

Parents defend the rights of your children and reject these invalid and harmful tests.



Demand an alternative, like assessments based on portfolios and student projects. Demand funds be spent for music and physical education, not testing. In Buffalo for the past two years, students in music programs all graduated, 100%. So say no to testing and yes to music!

The tests do not contribute to raising the quality of education or conditions for learning. They make them far worse and hours of time are spent preparing for the tests, doing test-related paperwork, administering and grading the tests themselves.

You Can Choose to Refuse! Join the hundreds of thousands doing so statewide. Stand up for learning and education — refuse the state tests!

We Stand with Dr. Nevergold and Denounce the Use of Unfair Student Evaluation Formula for Buffalo Criterion Schools

Western New Yorkers for Public Education, March 15, 2016

Western New Yorkers for Public Education (WNY4PE), a grassroots group of parents, educators and community members, is against the use of New York State Education Department (NYSED) 3-8 grade test scores in the evaluation of applicants to Buffalo Public Criterion Schools. It also denounces the assignment of a score of “0” to students whose parents legally and responsibly opted their children out of the NYSED 3-8 grade tests.

Buffalo parent Beth McKee notes “I know for a fact many families have a big issue with these particular NYS standardized tests and how they’re affecting curriculum, students and teachers. They would be opting their children out of them, as well, if it weren’t for the criterion-based schools using them as a huge part of a student’s profile in admission process. It’s coercive and punishing, and it’s unfair.”

In December of 2015, the Common Core Task Force included in its 51-page report the following:

“Recommendation 21: Until the new system is fully phased in, the results from assessments aligned to the current

Common Core Standards, as well as the updated standards, shall only be advisory and not be used to evaluate the performance of individual teachers or students.”

The use of the NYSED 3-8 assessment as one of the measurements for the criterion schools in the City of Buffalo Public School (BPS) System is in direct violation of this recommendation. It is also in violation of New York State Law (Sec 305), which indicates “that no school district shall make any student promotion or placement decisions based solely or primarily on student performance on state administered standardized English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Assessments for grades 3 -8.”

Dr. Orfield’s lengthy Civil Rights Project Report from 2015 also recommends that criterion-based school applications “eliminate the New York state tests because the standards have been changed so drastically and their use is too new to support valid predictions.” Instead, he recommends that student grades be given much higher value in the student placement process. Student grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) have long been proven to be the single greatest predictor of future academic success.

WNY4PE also supports BPS Board of Education member Dr. Nevergold in her demands to not only end the use of NYSED 3-8 tests scores from future criterion school applications, but to recalculate 2016 applications for students whose parents chose to opt out. Like students from private schools who do not take the NYSED 3-8 ELA/Math tests, students who opted out MUST be allowed to substitute a comparable measure rather than be awarded a score of “0.”

The NYSED 3-8 test scores have been shown to be deeply flawed and the use of the scores from these tests have



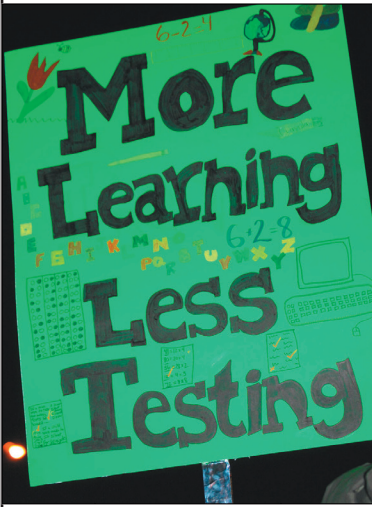
been deemed unreliable. As a result, these scores should be omitted from the criterion school application process all together.

Western New Yorkers for Public Education is a grassroots group of parents, educators and community members who believe our Public Schools should be well-funded, and have small class sizes with a diverse curriculum that includes history, science, music, arts, and physical education. We are against the use of high-stakes testing in our schools.

Excessive testing takes away significant time from learning, it forces teachers to “teach to the test,” it takes the joy out of learning for children, and it uses our children as tools to evaluate school districts, schools, and teachers. We aim to abolish the use of large databases that provide our children’s private, personal information to private vendors without parents’ permission. [...]



Did You Know?



- You have the right to refuse the New York State (NYS) Common Core Tests in grades 3-8, being administered in April.

- A focus on state test scores means untested subjects such as art, music, social studies, science and physical education are limited or cut.

- You, your child and teacher do not get specific results from the tests, so they do not assist your child's learning. The Common Core Tests do not provide useful information for developing your child's strengths and meeting their needs.

- Buffalo will NOT lose money if there are high OPT OUT numbers. Beware of empty threats. No school district has lost a single dollar due to students and parents REFUSING STATE TESTS.

- Students will sit for 9 hours of testing and some English Language Learners and special education students could be subjected to 18 hours of testing. Both are longer than the state bar exam for lawyers.

- State takeover of schools — Receivership — will continue to exist, with students and schools, which are mainly minority and impoverished, branded as failures. Schools are kept and put in receivership based mainly on the flawed state test scores. Buffalo still has 25 such schools, with 20 remaining in receivership after June 2016.

- Teachers in receivership schools in Buffalo can be involuntarily transferred at any time, for basically any reason, and these transfers are starting now.

- The Governor's Common Core Task Force determined that state tests need an "overhaul" and should not be used to assess students or teachers. Yet students who do not REFUSE will take these same flawed tests. A private company, Pearson, not educators, created these tests and is getting paid tens of millions that could go to music and physical education.

- Refusing the Tests is one way to show lawmakers that students, teachers and parents are standing together to raise the quality of education and defend the Equal Right to Education for All. Join the hundreds of thousands statewide and REFUSE STATE TESTS.

Ask your parent facilitator or teachers for information and letters to refuse the tests or visit: www.wnyforpubliced.com

Teaching to the State Test *or Teaching the Whole Child?*

The Choice is Yours

Community Forum on Common Core State Testing and Curriculum

***Merriweather Library (Jefferson & Utica)
11am • Saturday, April 2, 2016***

Come hear Principal Jamaal Bowman, of Cornerstone Academy for Social Action (CASA) in the Bronx. He has positive experience teaching to the whole child and not to the tests and the impact this has on classroom learning and the emotional, physical and academic development of children.

He will discuss the Common Core state testing for 3-8 graders, taking place April 5-7 for English and April 13-15 for Math. He will address their impact on learning and teaching. For example, in Buffalo, 100% of students in music programs have graduated in the last two years. Yet subjects impacting the whole child, like music, art, physical education and social studies, are cut in favor of time to prepare for and take the state tests. ***Mr. Bowman will speak to the right of parents to refuse state testing for their children.***



He will also speak to false claims being made that parents cannot make such a choice, that it will harm their schools, put them in receivership, etc.

Come find out about state testing and have your concerns and questions addressed by a principal with sixteen years experience, seven as a principal addressing the needs of the whole child. His students are successful as human beings.

Make an informed decision about opting your child out of state testing.

Supported by: Buffalo Parents, Teachers and Clergy