



Date: October 22, 2025

To: Margarita Berta-Ávila, President of the California Faculty Association
From: Northern California Jewish Labor Committee (JLC)
Re: Deep Concern Over CFA's Questionnaire and the Inclusion of Jewish Advocacy Organizations

Dear President Berta-Ávila and Members of the CFA Board,

We write on behalf of the [Northern California Jewish Labor Committee \(JLC\)](#) — a coalition of Jewish trade unionists, labor leaders, and rank-and-file activists committed to the shared struggle for worker justice, civil rights, and democracy.

We are deeply troubled and disheartened by CFA's recent candidate questionnaire that equates accepting support or endorsements from JPAC (the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California) or AIPAC (the American Israel Public Affairs Committee) with taking money from Big Oil or the Tobacco industry.

As Jewish workers and lifelong advocates of organized labor, we find this false equivalence profoundly offensive. It wrongly characterizes Jewish communal organizations — many of which provide critical social services, immigrant legal aid, and poverty relief — as somehow “harming working people.” This framing does not advance solidarity; it isolates and stigmatizes Jewish advocates who have historically stood shoulder-to-shoulder with labor on picket lines and in legislative battles for economic and social justice. This isn't just a talking point. JPAC recently supported SB 399 (Wahab), which banned captive audience meetings in California, and brought along dozens of Jewish organizations with it.

We understand and respect CFA's right to scrutinize political donations and ensure alignment with its' members' values. But conflating Jewish-American advocacy organizations with corporate special interests perpetuates a harmful trope — one that associates Jewish civic engagement with undue influence or moral corruption. This is a dangerous and historically loaded narrative that has fueled antisemitism for generations.

Furthermore, JPAC is not a political action committee and does not make campaign contributions. It is a broad, nonpartisan coalition of Jewish nonprofits and service organizations working on issues ranging from housing and poverty to refugee protection and reproductive rights. Its inclusion alongside industries that exploit workers and pollute

communities betrays a fundamental misunderstanding of who Jewish advocates are and what we fight for.

We urge CFA to:

1. Publicly clarify and correct the language in its questionnaire.
2. Engage in dialogue with Jewish labor organizations, including the JLC, to rebuild trust and understanding.
3. Affirm the union movement's commitment to opposing antisemitism in all forms — including the exclusion or vilification of Jewish organizations acting in good faith within the democratic process.

The Jewish Labor Committee has, since its founding in 1934, stood for both labor solidarity and the fight against hate. We continue to believe that our struggles — for academic freedom, workers' rights, and human dignity — are intertwined. We hope CFA will join us in reaffirming that principle rather than undermining it.

Sincerely,

Sue Kahn
Founding Chair/President

Susan Kitchell
Executive Vice President/Secretary

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On behalf of the Northern California Jewish Labor Committee