

**DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION STATEMENT ON STATE BUDGET**

DHF thanks Asm. Rudy Salas and Sen. Ana Caballero for their work in championing greater investment in the Central Valley to include the Dolores Huerta Peace and Justice Cultural Center. This would not have been possible without the efforts of the labor unions and supporters. Camila Chavez, Executive Director of DHF shared, "We are excited about building a permanent home for DHF as well as other non-profit organizational activities. We will expand our programming and increase the number of people we serve." We recognize the budget as a statement of our values and celebrate the increased investment in our community. DHF has chosen to locate the Peace and Justice cultural center in downtown Bakersfield as part of its long-term commitment to revitalize the Eye St. Corridor, which will draw tourists and revitalize small businesses in the area.. The Self Help Federal Credit Union, adjacently built, creates and protects ownership and economic opportunity for all by lending to individuals, small businesses and nonprofits; developing real estate; and promoting fair financial practices. In addition to serving as the headquarters for DHF, the Peace & Justice Cultural Center will include:

- Youth programming space
- An early childhood education program integrating parent empowerment
- A cultural center honoring those who contributed to the rich history and economy of the Central Valley (Native Americans, Dust Bowl settlers, Arabs, Chinese, Japanese, African Americans, Filipinos and Latinos)
- Auditorium and outdoor event center for cultural/community events; meeting spaces for local organizations. The FY22 state budget is a step in the right direction and represents a renewed investment in working-class communities. California must continue to step up by strengthening the investment in the Central Valley.

**STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION DURING PRIDE MONTH LACK SUPPORT FROM SCHOOL DISTRICT BY DHF YOUTH BELEN SUSANA DELGADO**

Once again, the Kern High School District has failed to stand in solidarity with students that are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. On June 3, within the first few days of Pride Month, students from Centennial High posted a Snapchat video of them urinating on a Pansexual flag. Additionally, LGBTQIA+ students on campus were being harassed by students wearing Trump flags and saying homophobic and transphobic slurs.

The district's response to these heinous acts was simply to disguise it as students having different opinions and promising corrective action. The truth is that KHSD personnel and students have perpetuated a culture of hateful behavior that has been consistently tolerated by the school district.

The KHSD board even approved the establishment of a student led anti-discrimination committee that would advise the board on discipline and trainings regarding LGBTQIA+ issues. Since its approval in 2019, the community and students have no knowledge of this committee.

As a student in 2019, I was excited to hear about the committee that was being established to create a more welcoming environment for my fellow queer classmates. However, since my senior year when it was first proposed and now as an alumna, I have not seen the board move forward with the anti-discrimination committee.

If this committee were faithfully implemented and serving its purpose, these incidents of continuous harassment would not be permissible. You can see that they have not taken these incidents of harassment seriously and won't unless we pressure them to follow up on the issues brought to them by the neglected and unprotected youth in their district.

The district is legally obligated to protect our students; yet they continue to allow harassment towards our LGBTQIA+ youth. Through California law AB493, they will be required to provide the necessary resources.

We need effective educational programs that can help shift narrative from intolerance to respect. I advise the board to reevaluate their values moving forward in protecting students' identities and promote a safe and healthy school environment for all.

**PEOPLE POWERED MAPS**

DHF is working to make sure that every person is fairly represented. The 2020 Census was the initial step and when the redistricting process began.

We organized communities to make sure their voices are heard throughout the redistricting process. We have worked hard to educate folks on how their district lines determine if they are able to elect a representative who responds to their needs and what they can do about it.

Currently, we are focusing our efforts on some of the most underrepresented rural communities in the Central Valley throughout the counties of Kern, Tulare, Fresno, and Antelope Valley.

We reached people through food banks, community campaigns, and Spanish-language media and even collected 550 signatures to submit to Tulare County in support of accessibility, transparency and community engagement in the redistricting process. It was through this process and your support that we were able to accomplish so much!

Through this effort, we asked that communities engage in redistricting and make their voices heard! While our current effort is focused on redistricting, the ultimate goal is to empower people. Through community organizing, we can hold leaders accountable and can make real change. All of this would not be possible without your help, for it is your donations that help DHF travel, educate and organize each community.

