

**Resolution Title:** **Resolution on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and States' misdirection of TANF Funding**  
**Submitted by:** **Professional Staff Congress, Local 2334**

Whereas, many workers who lost their jobs in the recession remain unemployed; and

Whereas, regions continue to experience high rates of unemployment and underemployment; and

Whereas, the goal of TANF was to reduce poverty by enabling families to become self sufficient through employment; and

Whereas, TANF returned funds to states to provide programming to assist families by removing barriers to employment, training or education; and

Whereas, many effective programs supported by such funding enabled participants to acquire jobs with benefits that paid living wages; and

Whereas, programs established to facilitate employment have now experienced severe cutbacks in funding because states are using TANF surpluses to cover unrelated state expenses; and

Whereas, low wage jobs without health or other benefits mean that any illness or injury can lead to economic and social instability and devastating consequences for families and communities; and

Whereas, poverty and the instability associated with poverty undermine children's educational achievement; and

Whereas, all Americans benefit from programs that enable families to move out of poverty; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) collaborate with the AFL-CIO and advocates of the poor to ensure that Federal TANF funds allocated to states not be transferred to other programs or used by the states for other purposes; and be it further

Resolved, that AFT support programming to eliminate barriers to employment, job training, or education, including college, for those in low paying jobs or those on or leaving public assistance; and be it further

Resolved, that AFT work with its labor affiliates to increase and enhance the safety net for all families.

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I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2004 AFT Convention by the:

Delegate Assembly at a meeting held on May 27, 2004

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(President) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Secretary) \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Staff Congress  
Local or Retiree Council Name

Local 2334  
AFT#