

# Californians for Justice

Education Fund

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## Media Advisory

Date: August 5, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Youth Leaders Address Disparities in FUSD Schools That Cause Students To Be Pushed Out and Dropout

**WHAT:** Students, parents, and community members will come together at “**Dropout kNOw More!**” a community event to increase awareness about the alarming dropout rates in the Fresno Unified School District. Current high school student leaders will share their stories of the struggles they face through personal testimony, performance art and poetry. Additionally, they will share their proposals to help decrease the dropout rates in Fresno Unified and how they can work with the district to ensure students receive the education they deserve.

Student leaders have identified the following 3 areas as major contributors to why students dropout:

- Unfair and inconsistent discipline policies.
- Lack of good and healthy student/teacher communication and connection.
- Lack of culturally relevant curriculum that reflects the diversity of Fresno Unified.

This event will give a human face to the dropout rates and further Californian For Justice’s campaign “**Educacion sin Barreras/Education without Borders,**” which aims to prevent and reduce high school dropout rates in Fresno.

### Photo and Interview Opportunities Available

**WHEN:** August 11, 2010 from 5:00-7:30 pm

**WHERE:** Calwa Park  
4545 E Church Ave  
Fresno, CA 93725-1537

**WHO:** Californians for Justice is a statewide grassroots organization working for racial justice by building the power of communities that have been pushed to the margins of the political process. We organize youth, immigrants, low-income people and communities of color in order to improve their social, economic and political conditions.

**WHY:** “The dropout rate is 40% so it’s important to fight to decrease the dropout rates because as youth we need to empower our voice and put our education to use because we’re the next generation,” Miriam Hernandez, junior at Edison High School.