



# STAT facts

HEALTH CARE WORKERS COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STEELWORKERS

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## Supreme Court Conservatives Crush Workers, Again

The Supreme Court last week dealt organized labor a severe blow, ruling against unions in the case of Janus v. AFSCME Council 31.

The 5-4 ruling drastically curtails the rights of public sector workers, including teachers and emergency service personnel.

“This is regression for the nation’s workers,” wrote International President Leo W. Gerard in response to the decision.

“In lockstep with the Trump administration and congressional conservatives, the high court’s right-wingers are shoving workers back to an earlier era, a time when corporations held all of the power and when workers, in what was supposed to be a free society, were in fact denied liberty.”

At issue was the ability of unions in the public sector to collect agency or fair share fees from non-members who benefit from the higher negotiated wages, benefits and working conditions in unionized workplaces.

No worker was required to join a union under this system,

and both union members and non-members could opt out of political and other costs not directly associated with bargaining.

Yet unions are required to represent those non-member free riders in bargaining and settling work-related problems with employers.

“The union-hating conservative groups behind the Janus case have already launched a massive campaign to persuade public sector union members to quit and get free union services,” wrote Gerard.

“This is destruction by subtraction. Backed by billionaires, these groups have the luxury of big bucks and unlimited time to pick off members, one by one, until a tipping point when the local union no longer has sufficient income to provide decent service and collapses.

“Then, of course, no one gets services.”

To read the full statement, [click here](#).

### Tell Us Your Stories!

Has your local done something outstanding? Have you had a great solidarity action? Done something huge to help your community? Made significant connections with other labor groups? Is your Women of Steel or Next Gen committee making waves?

**Tell us about it!**

**Contact Jess Kamm Broomell at  
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