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Workers Stand Together in the Face of Janus v. AFSCME Decision

San Francisco – Today the Supreme Court overturned more than four decades of precedent by making fair share fees for public sector workers unconstitutional in the Janus v. AFSCME case. This case forces the entire public sector in California and across America into Right to Work.

This decision was the culmination of hundreds of millions of dollars spent by corporate billionaires over decades to take away working people’s freedom to stand together in a union. No court decision can extinguish the desire of working people standing together in unions to create better lives for our families and communities. California needs strong unions to stand up to the rich and powerful who rig the economy against workers, and workers aren’t about to let these corporate billionaires turn back the clock on all the progress we’ve made.

“As a firefighter, I know that standing together means having the power to negotiate working conditions and that has a real impact on public safety,” said Adam Wood, a union member of SF Firefighters Local 798. “Our voice matters and we are not giving it up because the wealthy elite want us to.”

“As a nurse I have seen first-hand the power of being in union with my coworkers,” said Sasha Cutler, a 30-year nurse and member of SEIU 1021 at San Francisco General Hospital. “Keeping our union strong means we can fight to improve standards and maintain staffing, all critical to patient care.”

“When working people stand together they raise standards for everyone in our community,” said Mayor Mark Farrell. “We should be growing our unions and strengthening our middle class, not leaving them vulnerable to the agenda of corporate special interests.”

Workers will rally together at Union Square at 4 PM today. Hotel workers are demanding that #1job is enough and demanding fair wages and Public Sector workers are uniting to say they will stay #UnionStrong in the face of this decision.

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The San Francisco Labor Council is an organization representing over 100 local unions with a membership of over 80,000 working men and women in San Francisco.