



ARE YOU READY? YOUR UNION'S CALL TO ACTION!

Why Friedrichs and Other Anti-Union Challenges Still Matter

Most everyone knows by now that *Friedrichs vs CTA*, a case that was pending before the U.S. Supreme Court was decided recently. The Court's split ruling determined (for now) that agency fee (fair share) does not violate the First Amendment Rights of public sector employees.

But let's be honest & real for a moment. The favorable result we got in the *Friedrichs* case will not end the challenge to agency fee/fair share, or the challenges facing our unions.

- Dozens of similar cases are winding their way through the courts (including 4 asking for cert from the Supreme Court & the petition to re-hear *Friedrichs*).
- State legislatures are debating and enacting legislation designed to cripple public-sector unions. (e.g., Loss of payroll deduction & state-by-state adoption of "Right-to-Work" laws.)

NEA's affiliates all contribute to its strength and stability. Loss of agency fee in California and any/all of the other 22 remaining agency fee states could result in significant membership losses for NEA. This in turn will have a dramatic and devastating effect on the budgets of **all** NEA affiliates. One need look no further than the loss of membership in Wisconsin following its loss of collective bargaining to see a preview of the impact of anti-union legislation and/or court decisions on NEA affiliates and staff. Here's the simple "math" of why this matters:

- Loss of members = Loss of NEA dues dollars
- Loss of NEA dues dollars = Loss/Reduction of NEA UniServ grants
- Loss of NEA UniServ grants = Loss of affiliate staff
- Loss of affiliate staff = Probable loss of more NEA members

This issue matters to each and every one of us!

STAY TUNED for the next issue of "Are You Ready?" in mid-April. We'll be sharing recommended bargaining and organizing strategies from NSO to help our unions build a good offense and defense.

