



Federation of Social Workers IUE~CWA 81381

THE UNION REVIEW

June 28, 2018

Sisters and Brothers,

As many of you know, yesterday the US Supreme Court dealt what was meant to be a crushing blow to public sector unions. In a 5-4 vote they decided that it is no longer constitutional to collect agency fee or fair share dues for the representation and contract protections afforded to everyone in a bargaining unit. Agency fee or fair share payers, refers to those who are part of the bargaining unit, but have not signed membership cards; they pay their fair share for the representation and protections at their disposal. Everyone who has signed their union membership card is a member.

Our collective voice is the most effective tool we have. We know from experience, when we stick together, we get results. With the protection of our union contract, we don't have to just accept changes that are made to our working conditions. We have negotiated sick time, vacation time, bereavement time, and a progressive discipline process, among many other things. Contrary to popular belief, these things are not provided out of generosity, they are mandatory subjects of bargaining, and as such cannot be changed unless we, as a union, agree. However, if we have no contract, we have no say.

Therefore, despite setbacks such as yesterday's decision, it is imperative, that we remain unified and show that we WANT to be union members.

I look forward to our continued journey together as we stand union strong!

In solidarity,

Kendall Bell, President

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