



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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## LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

### US SUPREME COURT FIRES NEAR-FATAL SHOT INTO THE HEART OF THE UNION

The 5-4 decision in the case, *Janus v. the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 31*, effectively makes the entire U.S. public sector a “right-to-work” zone. As a result, millions of public employees will have the choice to no longer support unions that must continue to bargain on their behalf.

At the center of the debate was a 1977 Supreme Court opinion known as *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* that says while “fair share” members of public sector unions cannot be required to pay fees for a union’s political activities, they can be required to pay so-called “fair share” fees pertaining to issues such as employee grievances, physical safety and training. The Trump administration sided with Janus in the case, reversing course from the 1977 decision and from the Obama administration in a 2016 case when the Supreme Court heard arguments in a similar challenge, but deadlocked in a 4-4 split following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

Justice Alito noted, and dismissed, the impact to union funds.” We recognize that the loss of payments from non-members may cause unions to experience unpleasant transition costs in the short term, and may require unions to make adjustments in order to attract and retain members,” Alito wrote. In a blistering dissent, Justice Elena Kagan wrote, “The First Amendment was meant for better things. It was meant not to undermine but to protect democratic governance—including over the role of public-sector unions.”

### WAKE UP! DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE ALARMS GOING OFF

The confirmation of President Donald Trump's Supreme Court pick, Justice Neil Gorsuch, paved the way for the Janus ruling, so thank Trump' Supreme Court for the systematic dismantling of labor in the US. Remember, our failure, as unionists, to register to vote and vote for labor endorsed candidates brought us to this juncture. The next move by those forces out to destroy labor will be “National Right-to-Work”

The November 2018 midterm elections will be critical to labor and especially in the PA Governor’s race. This race will come down to whether or not Pennsylvania becomes the next “Right-to-Work State”. The PA Conference is encouraging you to do the right thing and vote your paycheck, not necessarily your party. Vote our endorsed candidates before it is too late. The clock is ticking.

These Legislative Action Alerts will be posted on the PA Conference of Teamsters web site at [www.pacfteamsters.com](http://www.pacfteamsters.com) Go to the home page and click on the black box titled Legislative Action Alert Bulletins. Please share our web site address and these alerts with your officers, agents and stewards.