

Minnesota AFL-CIO Sample Caucus Resolution
Oppose Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association and in
Support of Minnesota's Public Service Workers

BE IT RESOLVED: That the _____ party be clear and vocal in opposition to corporate interests like the Koch brothers, American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and the Center for Individual Rights, who are advancing Supreme Court cases like Citizens United and Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association as part of a plan to destroy the labor movement to further tip the scales in favor of big corporations and the wealthy and make it easier for a handful of billionaires to elect candidates who will write laws to their benefit, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the _____ party be clear and vocal in support of Minnesota public service workers, like teachers, nurses, firefighters, correctional officers, social workers and snow plow drivers, and their right to unite at work and speak up for quality schools, better patient care, and safe neighborhoods, and recognize that unions have spent decades fighting for fair and equitable wages for all workers, regardless of race or gender.

TALKING POINTS:

- Corporate interests not only want to reduce pay and benefits for working people, they and groups like the Koch brothers, American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and the Center for Individual Rights, are advancing Supreme Court cases like Citizens United and Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association as part of a blatant, broader attack on working people. Their goal is to weaken the voice of unions and working families and gain even more power in the political process for themselves – making it easier for a handful of billionaires to elect candidates and write laws to their benefit.
- A decision favorable to the plaintiffs will set an extremely dangerous precedent and embolden right wing anti-union extremists determined to destroy the rights of all working people. It would overturn existing state and local laws that protect the rights of working people, making it even more difficult for public service workers such as police, firefighters, correctional officers, social workers, nurses, teachers and other educators to unite at work for quality schools, better patient care, and safe neighborhoods.
- Our party should support the value that everyone who works hard should be able to make ends meet, have a say about their futures, and have the right to negotiate together for better wages and benefits that can sustain their families.
- Unions have spent decades fighting for fair and equitable wages for all workers, regardless of race or gender, as women in the U.S. represented by a union earn an average of \$212 more per week than women in non-union jobs, and Hispanic and black workers earn 23.1 percent and 17.3 more, respectively, when they are represented by a union.
- Our party should collectively be seeking solutions to racial and income inequality instead of attacking workers who serve the public.

- America's economy has, however, swung out of balance and everyday Americans are working more than ever before creating record wealth for corporate CEOs and the rich, without the rest of us benefiting.