

# ***Strong Unions, Stronger Communities***

## **Working Families Toolkit**

### **#Unions**

Thank you for your commitment to lift up the contributions of working people and their unions to our country. In the new report, [\*Strong Unions, Stronger Communities\*](#), you will find more than a dozen examples from across the country of how working people who belong to strong unions are making their communities stronger and leveling the playing field for everyone.

Whether it is training young people to pursue careers in nursing, or negotiating with employers for better equipment and staffing levels to reduce emergency response times, strong unions are making important and often invaluable contributions to our communities every day. Through better public services, good jobs and better opportunities for students, labor unions are key to making sure that working people have a chance to get ahead in an economy rigged in favor of the wealthy and powerful.

What makes these contributions possible is the freedom of public service workers to come together and pool their resources so they have the strength in numbers they need to speak up for their families, their coworkers and their communities. But that freedom is under attack at the Supreme Court in a case called *Janus v. AFSCME* that aims to diminish the ability of working people to stand in strong unions to advocate for the things our communities need.

We hope that by writing **op-eds, letters to the editor, statements and by posting to social media**, you will draw renewed attention in the face of this unprecedented attack to the value our unions add to our communities. Please see below some material, including social media and a sample LTE to help you weigh in and lift up the examples in the report.

Thank you!

[\*\*Read the report: \*Strong Unions, Stronger Communities\*\*\*](#)

#### **Sample LTE:**

##### **Strong Unions Make Our Communities Even Stronger**

Unions are now more important than ever. Today's economy is rigged against working people in favor of the wealthy and powerful. That's not by accident. Corporate CEOs and the politicians who do their bidding have written the economic rules to favor their own interests.

And now they seem hell-bent on making matters worse by taking away health care for millions and stripping away funding for programs like Medicaid and Social Security, all to give the wealthy massive tax cuts.

Unions keep these forces in check because they provide everyday working people with the power in numbers needed to improve their lives and their communities. When unions are strong,

everyone benefits. Wages, protections and standards for working people increase and our communities are stronger.

In Newark, unions have set up a training fund that provides young people a pathway to in-demand careers in nursing. In Minnesota, strong unions of teachers speak up together to make sure their students get the care and resources they need to succeed. These are just two examples highlighted in a [recent report](#) of how unions strengthen our communities.

But now the same CEOs and politicians who have rigged the rules against working people for decades have convinced the U.S. Supreme Court to take up a case, *Janus v. AFSCME* that could rig the rules even further against working people by striking at the freedom to come together in strong unions. Americans support and need unions, and we need to show that support more than ever so our economic rules benefit everyone, not just the wealthy and powerful.

### **Sample Tweets:**

#### **[View Shareable Social Media Graphics](#)**

Strong #unions lead to stronger communities for everyone, both union and non-union members alike: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

Strong #unions are key to fixing this rigged economy and political system. See new report: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

New report shows how strong #unions benefit all working people and American communities: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

Strong #unions give people more power to fight for the things that keep our communities safe & strong: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

Strong #unions make our communities safe. In MA, front-line social workers stood together to improve child safety: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

Strong #unions level the playing field for everyone. In CA, union members are fighting to hold banks accountable: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

In NJ, strong #unions train and provide a pathway for underserved youth to pursue careers in nursing: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

In NY, strong #unions speak up for faster response times when emergencies strike: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

In CA, strong #unions bring back jobs to local communities and ensure better services for tax payers: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

In OR, strong #unions fight for paid sick leave for everyone:

<https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

In WA, strong #unions ensure more time for children to have fun and develop at school:

<https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

In MN, strong #unions negotiate for smaller class sizes, healthier and happier children:

<https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

Strong #unions help make sure our communities are safer and prepared when disaster strikes:

<https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

### **Sample Facebook Posts:**

#### **[View Shareable Social Media Graphics](#)**

- We're standing up for the freedom of working people to join together in strong #unions because each day around the country unions give working people the power in numbers they need to make our communities stronger. But now the corporate interests behind a new Supreme Court case want to make it harder for working people to get ahead and to improve the lives of all working people. See how strong unions make stronger communities: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>
- When working people have the freedom to join strong #unions and negotiate a fair return for their work, they have the power to help everyone succeed – whether or not they belong to a union. But the corporate interests behind a new Supreme Court case want to make it harder for working people to get ahead. Share this report: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>
- Through collective bargaining, union members are scoring victories that help entire communities – like safer nurse staffing levels that help patients and smaller classroom sizes that help students. #Unions are needed now more than ever: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>
- When the Great Recession hit Pennsylvania's budgets, right-wingers and austerity hawks used the crisis as a weapon against Philadelphia's public schools – slashing the district's budget and pushing a privatization agenda on Philadelphia's families. But that didn't stop teachers or their union from making sure students got the care and resources they need. See how strong #unions make our communities stronger: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

- By 2022, nearly 3.5 million nurses will be needed in the United States. But while the need increases, the number of trained registered nurses is actually decreasing. In #NewJersey, members of AFSCME Local 1199J/NUHHCE are helping train the next generation of health care professionals while giving young people a chance at a stable career. Read the report about how strong #unions make our communities stronger: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>
- When disaster strikes, EMS workers in New York are more prepared to respond. That's because, together as a strong union, they spoke up for better training, equipment and staffing levels that help save lives. That's just one reason why we need strong #unions, but now the corporate interests behind a new Supreme Court case want to make it harder for people like EMS workers to protect their communities: <https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>
- Strong #unions make our communities safer and stronger. In Massachusetts, 3,000 union social workers are fighting to improve child safety throughout the state. They care deeply about their communities, but now the CEOs and corporate interests behind a Supreme Court case called *Janus v. AFSCME* want to take away their freedom to come together and improve their communities.

See how strong unions make our communities stronger:

<https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>

- Felipe Cuevas, a heavy equipment mechanic in Oakland, California, is fighting along with his union to make sure we hold big banks accountable. Strong #unions are needed now more than ever:

“It’s not fair that hardworking people consistently get the short end of the stick while the powerful go unchecked. In an economy rigged against everyday people by big banks, CEOs and powerful corporate interests, unions like mine are giving working people a voice to level the playing field.”

<https://www.afscme.org/news/publications/strong-unions-stronger-communities>