

Dear HEA members,

Yesterday, the US Supreme Court issued a decision that is the latest in a long line of attacks against public workers' wages, benefits, and rights. In their *Janus vs AFSCME* ruling, the Court made it more difficult for educators to join together and have a strong voice to advocate for ourselves and our students. While the Court's decision is disappointing, we know that the real decision about our union's strength doesn't lie in any court's hands—it lies in ours.

In today's world, it has never been more important to be a member of a union and I know our Association will remain strong. Your union dollars make a difference every day when we negotiate for your pay and benefits, when we step in to help with a safety concern, or any of the other day to day issues we work to resolve. We do this so that you can teach, students can learn, and there is peace in the workplace. We can only do this because there is power in numbers!

I expect that over the next few weeks, you'll be hearing from groups that want to capitalize on this opportunity to undermine the strength of HEA and OEA/NEA - the unions that bring educators together. Anti-union organizations like the Freedom Foundation and Opt Out Today will say that dropping your union membership will save you money. However, a strong union means that we have the bargaining power to negotiate our salary and benefits. A strong union also means that we can continue to fight for better learning conditions for students and working conditions for educators. HEA will stay strong, in solidarity, as we continue to be there for all of our members and the students that they serve.

We are truly stronger together - no court decision can change that. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your solidarity,

Jill Golay
HEA President

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