



NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

80 Broad Street • New York, N.Y. 10004

I.L.A. - A.F.L. - C.I.O.



Dear Members,

For over a year now, I have spoken of the constant attacks by the enemies of public sector labor unions and their unceasing desire to put an end to the livelihood of employees who benefit from their membership in our righteous organizations. This week, the United States Supreme Court heard arguments in a case known as Friedrichs v California Teachers Association. The forces which have driven this case to the highest Court in the land are ultra rich and powerful corporate overlords who would benefit greatly from the further diminution of the ability of organized labor to fight for its members.

The conservative leaning Court may be poised to rule in favor of a small group of teachers who disagree with their union. In doing so, however, it may be the final bell for organized labor throughout a country which was built, in large part, by organized workers. Imagine for a moment, the conditions of your professional life should this decision be made against the unions. Your employer will have unilateral power to decide what to pay you, under what terms and conditions you will work, your job description will be ignored and your protection and defense will be non existent if you are accused of not obeying their rules and procedures. Additionally, ancillary benefits provided by the union will slowly be phased out. Your voice, once the raging fire of workers nationwide, will be extinguished. Certainly, a bleak and grievous painting of the picture that may await us all in a few short months.

It has been proven that unions improve the life of working families, of communities and even of private sector workers. What is necessary now, more than ever, is for you to educate your families, co workers and neighbors about how important unionism is and to point out the wealthy interests using money as influence to bring this potential devastation to our lives. Rest assured, there are many forces working for unions as well. We are fortunate enough to have some of New York labor's best and brightest working for this union and I have been proud to join them as your voice to combat any anti union decision made by this court. The one thing we can all be certain about is our resolve and I know that continuing to fight as one is the right course of action because it maybe the only thing we have left. I will take those odds because I know the fire that burns in all of us.

Fraternally,

Patrick Cullen

President