

Send date/time: June 27, 2018
From Name: Clay Walker
Subject: The Supreme Court's Decision Today

Dear TANLA Colleagues:

In a narrow decision, the U.S. Supreme Court today turned its back on the educators, nurses, firefighters, police officers and public servants who make our communities strong and safe.

In *Janus v. AFSCME*, the court overturned a decision allowing the collection of fair share fees that was established more than 40 years ago. Allowing some to opt-out of paying will make it harder for all public employees to provide the services that everyone depends on. In short, it will be harder for workers to join strong unions. The key word here is *harder*, not *impossible*.

Therefore, it is important to remember that when we stand together, we have parity. Parity allows us to bargain better learning and working conditions, good contracts that include pay increases, health care and retirement security. It gives us a seat at the table to negotiate for things that improve the educational opportunities of our students, like additional resources, smaller class sizes, more nurses and counselors to keep students healthy and supported.

If we allow this decision to weaken TANLA, our ability to bargain better pay and benefits, support for new educators and necessary services for our most at-risk youth goes away. That's why it's more important than ever for us to keep our Association strong.

So, while the court made it more difficult for us to do our jobs, be assured that TANLA is a resourceful Association. We will continue to do what it takes to advocate for what our students and teachers need to succeed in the classroom. We won't give up advocating for our students.

If you agree, take a moment to post support for TANLA on social media using TANLA Facebook, #WeAreCTA, and #Union.

In Solidarity,

Clay Walker
TANLA President