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NEWS RELEASE

DAILY labor news from Washington at The Stand: www.TheStand.org

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Court decision won't stop labor movement, says state's largest union group

The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO is the state's largest union organization. It represents the interests of more than 600 labor organizations with over 450,000 rank-and-file members across the state. In response to today's Supreme Court's decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*, WSLC President Jeff Johnson and Secretary Treasurer Lynne Dodson released the following statement:

The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO strongly condemns the Supreme Court's decision to overturn 40 years of legal precedent and impose so-called "right to work" restrictions nationwide. This case was promoted and financed by right-wing billionaires and corporate elites with the goal of undermining the freedom of working people to join together and negotiate a fair return for their work. Their efforts will fail.

Now more than ever, working people understand that they need unions and strength in numbers to fight for a balanced economy. This is particularly true for our proud public employees. These are our family members, friends and neighbors. They teach our children, care for the sick and elderly, keep our communities safe, maintain our roads, and provide many other essential public services. They know they need strong unions, not just because it makes life better for themselves and their families, but also so they can advocate for their students, their patients, and the public they serve.

Public employees are derided as "government bureaucrats" by the rich and powerful interests behind this court decision. They want to divide and weaken workers so they can pay lower wages and turn back the clock on workers' rights. They want to rig the economy further against working people.

No court decision will stop us from fighting for good jobs, safe workplaces, affordable health care, and dignity at work for everyone. Today, we recommit not only to sustaining Washington's labor movement, but to building a stronger one. In this economy, working people must stick together in strong unions to demand better wages and benefits. The unions of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO will redouble efforts to guarantee the freedom to join, stand and negotiate together.

For more information, contact WSLC Communications Director David Groves at dgroves@wslc.org and 206-434-1301.

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