



A Union of Professionals

Attacks on Unions Hurt All Workers and Their Families

Our community depends on its workers. That includes the AFT members who teach and care for our children, who provide public services that keep our communities safe and vibrant, and who treat our families when we are sick or injured.

And, whether in a union or not, everyone who works or wants to work will be hurt by new legislation designed to further weaken America's unions.

Those attacks—including confusing and complicated policies like the cynically named “right to work” legislation—are driven by corporate interest groups that want to make bigger profits by squeezing workers and communities. Some CEOs are using their political power to make it easier for them to treat workers as replaceable numbers, engage in constant outsourcing, and put corporate earnings above safety and security in their workplaces.

Over the last 40 years, we've seen what happens when people lose a voice on the job and unions are weakened. Wages for working people stagnate, while the wealthiest take home more and more. These new attacks will further tip the balance against all workers—unionized or not—resulting in longer hours for less pay, fewer benefits and less financial security.

That's because unions play a vital role in setting standards for wages and safety across the economy. When unions speak up in elections and advocate for new laws, the positions they take—like fair wages, good benefits and a voice on the job—align with what most Americans want.

The richest Americans continue to get richer. Yet workers in every sector are struggling, and attacks on unions will only make things worse for everyone. We know that the weakening of unions which has occurred in recent years accounts for as much as one-third of the shift of income from the American middle class to the rich.

We know that unions help raise wages, make workplaces safer, give workers a voice in politics. We also know that union membership increases a person's sense of well-being and happiness.

Rather than focus on attacking unions, elected officials should focus on helping families and building the infrastructure needed to move America forward. We need legislators who will advocate for our needs—such as creating jobs; lowering unemployment; improving wages; and guaranteeing that we can live healthy, productive lives— instead of allowing for corporations and CEOs to push a political agenda that focuses on increasing their profits.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of 1.6 million professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

Loretta Johnson
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Mary Cathryn Ricker
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO • 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. • Washington, DC 20001 • 202-879-4400 • www.aft.org

