

MOBILIZE AND ORGANIZE TO RESIST THE TRUMP ATTACK ON UNIONS

1 Whereas, on January 31, 2017, President Donald Trump announced his nominee for the United
2 States Supreme Court: Neil Gorsuch, an extremist conservative judge whose record suggests
3 that he will rule in favor of corporations and against unions and workers; and

4 Whereas, on February 6, 2017, the Center for Individual Rights, the anti-union law firm that
5 recruited teachers to be plaintiffs in the *Friedrichs v. CTA* case, filed a new case, *Yohn v.*
6 *California Teacher Association*, calling for the State of California to overrule settled law and
7 invalidate state statutes that allow public-sector unions to collect fair share agency fees for
8 representing nonmembers in their bargaining units;

9 Whereas, the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016 left the Supreme Court equally
10 divided in *Friedrichs*, therefore affirming the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
11 recognizing that settled law allowed public-sector unions to collect fair share agency fees;

12 Whereas, the equally anti-union National Right to Work Foundation and Liberty Justice Center
13 backed a group of Illinois public employees to bring the case *Janus v. AFSCME*, also calling for
14 the invalidation of the collection of fair share fees by public sector unions;

15 Whereas, *Janus* is moving quickly through the federal court system and is expected to be
16 considered by the Supreme Court in the October 2017 term, with a decision invalidating the
17 collection of fair share fees expected to be delivered by June 2018; and

18 Whereas, the loss of unions' ability to collect fair share fees is designed to deliver a crippling
19 blow to the labor movement and to public-sector unions in particular—because organized labor,
20 strongest in the public sector, is still the largest organized movement in the United States with
21 the power to resist the Trump agenda of increasing economic inequality, racism, misogyny,
22 bigotry and anti-immigrant hatred; and

23 Whereas, the mass public campaigns mounted by supporters of other progressive legal
24 decisions—for example, the right to marriage equality—have demonstrated the power of mass
25 action to change the political climate; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED that NYSUT launch a strong campaign to educate and mobilize its members and
27 the public about this heinous attack on the unions representing workers who provide public
28 services; and

29 RESOLVED that NYSUT call on its member locals to organize and conduct internal campaigns
30 both to increase union membership and to urge current members to make a public commitment
31 to remain dues-paying union members, even in the event of a negative decision on *Janus*, so
32 that all NYSUT locals emerge from this year with deepened member adhesion and greater
33 capacity to advocate collectively for the public good.