

**To the editor:**

On Feb. 26, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Janus v. AFSCME*, a case that could severely weaken the American union movement. Depending on the outcome, the ramifications for workers nationwide — both unionized and non-unionized — could be catastrophic.

Although less than 25 percent of New York State workers belong to unions, unions benefit us all. A 2017 study by the Economic Policy Institute found that the very presence of unionized workers lifts wages and benefits for all workers.

It's more important than ever to preserve whatever bulwarks we can against falling wages, rising health care costs and companies that seem to have little regard for the well being of the men and women they employ.

It's time for all working people to work together to protect our workplace rights. If we fail to do so, the rights and benefits we take for granted today could be history tomorrow.

Sincerely,

John Doe

**To the editor:**

The winds of change are blowing at the U.S. Supreme Court. And for working people nationwide, it could be a category four hurricane.

With arguments for the *Janus v. AFSCME* case starting Feb. 26, our ability to have our voices heard in the workplace is in jeopardy. Janus is the culmination of years of attacks on worker rights by corporations that don't want strong unions.

Unions give workers a voice in the workplace. The weekend? Thank the union. Decent pay? Unions. Health care? Again, thank the union. In fact, just about every workplace benefit we take for granted came courtesy of the union movement.

But now, those benefits are in jeopardy. The men and women who fly on corporate jets realize that workers are stronger when we stand together. It's time working people remember we are stronger together as well, and fight together to protect our hard-won rights.

Sincerely,

Joe Doe

**To the editor:**

I'm a proud union member, and I'm concerned about the current case before the U.S. Supreme Court, *Janus v. AFSCME*.

The suit is a reminder that many of the workplace benefits we take for granted were won by unions. Massive labor strikes led to passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1937. During the 1940s and 1950s, when most people belonged to unions, income inequality was at its lowest point in the United States. And unions paved the way for health care coverage by banding workers together to negotiate plans with employers. As union membership has fallen, worker benefits and rights have too.

As workers, we deserve fair wages, affordable health care and a voice in the workplace. Let's face it: Before unions, there was very little good about the "good old days" in the workplace. I'm not in any hurry to turn back the clock. I hope you aren't either.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe