
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 975 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, NEILSON, SCHLOSSBERG, J. McNEILL, TAI, A. DAVIS, KINSEY, DERMODY, WARREN, SNYDER, DAVIS, DRISCOLL, PASHINSKI, SOLOMON, THOMAS, GAINNEY, BIZZARRO, CEPHAS, O'BRIEN, DONATUCCI, CRUZ, LONGIETTI, DEAN, ROEBUCK, MULLERY, DEASY, HILL-EVANS, CALTAGIRONE, GALLOWAY, HARKINS AND READSHAW, JUNE 27, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JUNE 27, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the impact that the *Janus v. AFSCME* decision may
2 have on workers' ability to collectively bargain, recognizing
3 the importance and legacy of labor unions in building the
4 middle class and calling for policies that advance workers'
5 rights.

6 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court is expected to rule
7 in the case of *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and*
8 *Municipal Employees (Janus)* in June 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, The *Janus* case impacts public servants such as
10 nurses, teachers, school district workers, police, firefighters
11 and social workers; and

12 WHEREAS, A *Janus* decision in favor of the plaintiff would
13 discard a 40-year United States Supreme Court precedent that
14 strengthens the power of workers by ensuring that those who
15 benefit from collective bargaining pay their fair share; and

16 WHEREAS, The *Janus* case is backed by corporate interests that
17 want to weaken public sector unionism by dividing union members

1 against nonmembers, making it more difficult for workers to find
2 strength in numbers to negotiate for better working conditions,
3 better hours, better wages and better communities as a whole;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Labor unions fought for and achieved virtually all
6 civilized working conditions that we take for granted today,
7 including, but not limited to, child labor laws, the 40-hour
8 workweek, minimum wages, vacation days, workplace safety rules,
9 overtime pay, sick leave, breaks at work, sexual harassment
10 laws, privacy rights, health insurance and pension coverage; and

11 WHEREAS, In recent years, there has been a coordinated attack
12 on workers' rights and middle-class protections in state
13 capitals across the country, including in Pennsylvania, at a
14 time when elected officials should be supportive of policies
15 that help working Americans secure a livable wage and support
16 their families; and

17 WHEREAS, The decline in union membership resulting from these
18 attacks has led to declining wages for working people and the
19 greatest concentration of wealth in the hands of the super-rich
20 in more than a century; and

21 WHEREAS, An adverse decision in *Janus* could deeply undercut
22 the financial viability of unions here in Pennsylvania and
23 around the country, thereby weakening the power of union
24 members; and

25 WHEREAS, In light of the looming Supreme Court decision, we
26 must recognize that unions comprise our friends, family members
27 and neighbors and that their efforts enable us to meet our
28 commitments to every resident of this Commonwealth; and

29 WHEREAS, The General Assembly should commit to reversing its
30 recent course of attacking union rights and instead seek to

1 maintain and expand labor and workplace rights in this
2 Commonwealth, including the ability to join and form a union;
3 therefore it be

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
5 impact of a *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and*
6 *Municipal Employees* decision on workers' ability to collectively
7 bargain, noting the importance and legacy of labor unions in
8 building the middle class and calling for policies that advance
9 workers' rights; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express its
11 strong support for the rights of workers; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives endorse the
13 following:

14 (1) using the bully pulpit available to lawmakers to
15 stand with workers in their fights for better wages and a
16 voice at work;

17 (2) strengthening the public sector by passing fair
18 budgets that fund schools and human services;

19 (3) raising standards on government spending to sustain
20 well-paying paying jobs and hold accountable employers that
21 engage in anti-union campaigns with taxpayer dollars;

22 (4) correcting our tax structure to support the middle
23 class and narrow the wealth gap;

24 (5) advancing the right to organize by permitting
25 municipalities to strengthen labor protections and lowering
26 barriers to joining unions and other forms of worker
27 organizations; and

28 (6) fighting for higher wages and safer working
29 conditions in the public workplace.