*Volume 2, Issue 5* *February 2016*

# Progressive Caucus: Proactive and Positive!

## Caucus and Community Stand Together in Support of Public Education

February 17 was a banner day for children, families, teachers, leaders and community members, as they rallied nationally in support of public education, with a focus on more funding and less testing. Thousands of people participated in "walk-ins" at more than 900 schools in 30 cities.

Twitter posts from the day best articulated the problems faced by our public schools. Messages conveyed included the desire for more community schools, increased focus on social, emotional and physical health support, elimination of state takeovers of local school systems, de-acceleration of charter schools (coupled with greater emphasis on investigation of such), and certainly, the reduction of standardized tests which have taken a physical and emotional toll on our educational communities.

*(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/education/wp/2016/02/17/parents-teachers-and-children-rally-for-public-education-at-hundreds-of-schools-nationwide/ and http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/02/thousands-students-parents-teachers-rallies-urban-districts-demand-funding )*

**Twitter Users: Follow**
**Lorretta @LorrettaJohnson Randi @rweingarten Mary Cathryn @mcricker**

**Friedrichs v CTA – Impact of Scalia Death – Five Facts for You**

**With the recent passing of Justice Scalia, many have questions on what could happen with *Friedrichs v CTA. Here are five facts for ease in reference:***

**1) If a five-member majority is reached, the justices could decide the case.**

**2) If a majority agreement on a specific issue is reached, a portion of the case could be decided on the merits, with the rest of the case affirmed.**

**3) The *Friedrichs* case could be rescheduled to the next term, and be reargued once the vacancy is filled.**

**4) The court did not publicly announce a decision in *Friedrichs*; if Justice Scalia cast a vote in conference, it is void.**

**5) The justices have until June 30 to decide on a course of action in *Friedrichs*.**

**As stated by President Randi Weingarten, *"We remain fully committed to our membership mobilization efforts. That is paramount regardless of what happens in Friedrichs."***

# Well Said!

**Progressive Caucus wants to hear your union news! Send your updates to the Progressive Caucus at progressivecaucusaft@gmail.com**

**Mary Cathryn Ricker** @mcricker · 2h
Well said, @VTOPresident, "Professionalism...is about being valued and appreciated for the work we do." #AFTpro medium.com/school-house-v

**When a Job Isn't Just a Job — Schoolhouse Voices**
This past weekend I read about yet another company shipping its jobs out of our country as a way to "stay competitive" w…

**Jerry T. Jordan** @jerrytjordan · Feb 16
Great to see @CityofPhila standing with PA's educators & parents for school funding #phled @PhillyMayor @PILCOP_EJ

> **Jerry T. Jordan** @jerrytjordan
> Philadelphia weighs in on school funding lawsuit po.st/FJSZBv via @phillydotcom

**David Quolke** @CTU279 · Feb 18
@CTU279 knows this is hard work but sometimes doing the right thing is hard work @ShariOB @mcropper1 @MegRyan24

**Lorretta Johnson** @LorrettaJohnson · 24h
The victims of the #FlintWaterCrisis could use #Medicaid expansion right now. modernhealthcare.com/article/201602…

**Donna M.chiera** @DchieraM · Feb 6
Solidarity is not just a word. Your union, your voice your power, supporting your union gives you more power.

**Melissa Cropper** @mcropper1 · Jan 31
TPS refuses to expand programs at needy schools. Great letter by @kdalton250 Toledo Blade po.st/1BDAXY @MorgyWV @oftadvocate

**Denise Specht** @DeniseSpecht · Feb 18
Thank you @HillaryClinton for calling out gaps tonight - housing, employment, gender, social security...#DemTownHall #ImWithHer

Mark Your Calendar

AFT Convention
Monday, July 18, 2016
to
Thursday, July 21, 2016
Minneapolis Convention Center