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APALA Responds to Cert in *Janus v. AFSCME*

Washington, DC - In response to the Supreme Court's decision to grant Certiorari in the case of in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA) issued the following statement from Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) union leaders:

"*Janus v. AFSCME* attempts to attack working people's ability to form strong unions and build power for their families and communities. As the nation's largest union, the National Education Association continues to fight for our members, our students, and their families. Our entire movement to build equity and opportunity for all people -- not just the wealthy 1% -- hangs on our ability to organize the unorganized and to elevate and strengthen workers' voices everywhere." -- **Monica Thammarath, APALA National President and Senior Liaison at the National Education Association**

"We need to challenge the corporate interests that drive this case forward and threaten our ability to support and protect the economic stability of our members, their families, and our communities. The goal of *Janus* is clear: a play for power backed by millionaires working to pad their own pockets by rigging the economy in their favor. We will not let them silence the voices of workers nationwide." -- **Kim Geron, APALA 1st Vice President and member of the California Faculty Association**

"Unions not only represent the interests of millions of working people and their families, but also provide a path to economic security and upward mobility and access to healthcare, retirement security, and other quality public services. The strength we have in numbers is crucial to leveling a playing field that has too often been tipped in the hands of the anti-worker, extremist, wealthy few." -- **Johanna Puno Hester, APALA 2nd Vice President and International Vice President of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees**

"The true intentions behind *Janus* are disgusting. Too long have corporate interests suppressed the freedoms of working people and our families. We will not back down, and we will continue to amplify the voices of our educators, our students and their families, and all public sector workers who play vital roles in our communities." -- **Tracy Lai, APALA National Secretary and Vice President of Human Rights of the American Federation of Teachers Washington**

"This fight for our union movement is now. Raising wages, improving working conditions, and creating thriving communities for union and nonunion members alike, including those in AAPI communities, are victories we've fought for time and again. We will not tolerate these tactics that aim to divide us and curb the collective power we've built and continue to build." -- **Luisa Blue, APALA National Executive Board Member and Executive Vice President of the Service Employees International Union**

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The **Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance** (APALA), AFL-CIO was founded in 1992 as the first and only national organization for Asian Pacific American union members to advance worker, immigrant and civil rights. For more information, visit www.apalanet.org and follow [@APALAnational](https://twitter.com/APALAnational)