**AROS 1/19 AHUY Organizer Rap**

**Introduction:** Hi, I’m [name]. I’m working with [local union] to speak with members about preserving our schools as safe spaces for educators and students, taking a stand against the pro-voucher nominee for secretary of education, and securing the future of public education. We’ll be taking a stand on January 19th to let Washington know that these are our public schools.

**Anger:** Have you seen or heard about our public schools being unsafe for some students or educators? What about the current nominee for Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos? Intimidation and violence towards minority, LGBTQ, immigrant students have risen dramatically. This has also impacted educators. To make matters worse, the nominee for Secretary of Education lacks any public school related experience and has a clear goal: to destroy public schools. Her organization, the American Federation for Children, is a rebranding of the pro-voucher, pro-privatization Advocates for School Choice, and it exists to give money to support voucher programs across the country. How does that make you feel?

**Hope:** I think you’d agree that we’re at a crossroads in public education. Do we want to create and maintain safe spaces in which ALL children are welcome? Do we want to stop a predatory voucher system that would undercut all we’ve worked for? I know I get upset when thinking about this, but I also know we can still make positive changes. We can work with the school district and the city to make our schools sanctuary schools. We will organize and let senators know that the will of the people is block Betsy DeVos from becoming the Secretary of Education. We have a plan to fight back and reclaim our schools.

**Urgency:** The time to act is now. Violence in schools towards marginalized students is becoming more common by the day. Betsy DeVos has a confirmation hearing any day now. We must tell the senate to just say no. But in order for anything to be work, we need you to stand up now.

**You make the difference:** On the 19th, we’ll be committing to a day of action that’s happening all across the country. Will you sign this commitment card saying that youll be there on the 19th? We’re [insert action here]. Also, will you fill out this card? It’s a letter to Senator [name] urging them not to hand the Department of Education to Betsy DeVos.

**Closing:**I appreciate your time. I know we can still make a difference. [Make sure you’ve collected all of the commitment cards.]