***Draft, email from local leaders to building reps: Welcome back/intro to Jan. 19 action***

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for your terrific service in 2016, and welcome back to school for the new calendar year! On Thursday, Jan. 19, please join me and thousands of AFT members, parents, students and community allies all over the country to demonstrate against the president-elect’s agenda to dismantle public education, and to ensure that all students have the opportunity to live their lives and pursue their dreams free from fear. We will be part of the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools national day of action to protect our schools, colleges and universities, communities and students. I hope you’ll lend your help to making this action a success for our local.

This is not about partisan politics. It's about the threat posed to public education as we know it, and to our profession, by the policies of President-elect Trump and his nominee for secretary of education, Betsy DeVos.

Why is our local making this action a priority? Because the future of our schools is at stake. You and I believe all children have the right to an education that helps them reach their full potential. We believe our leaders should commit to first-class public education for all—with schools that welcome students of all backgrounds, identities, origins and abilities. That’s the vision of opportunity and democracy our public schools stand for. But that vision is threatened by the policies of President-elect Trump and his nominee for secretary of education, Betsy DeVos. They seek to end public education as we know it. Meanwhile, the climate of fear and hate this election has unleashed is taking a steep toll on many of our students.

***Our local’s action will be [insert action, time, place, other groups joining with you, etc.] Can I count on your help to make it a success?*** Here are some ways you can get the word out to our members about the Jan. 19 Day of Action: Have one-on-one conversations, or group conversations during shared break times or your union meeting. Host before-school coffee and doughnuts or an after-school dessert social. Make a quick announcement during faculty/staff meetings. We’re also hoping you can help volunteer on the Day of Action itself, with tasks such as distributing signs or leading chants.

Your help in this action is so important. It’s our chance to speak out as educators for the future of our schools and students—which also means speaking against DeVos as education secretary. DeVos is not the leader America’s public schools need. She’d be the first U.S. education secretary who hasn't either attended public schools or sent her own children to them. She and her family have spent millions on an anti-public-school agenda, while promoting unregulated private, for-profit schooling. The DeVos family is involved in a hedge fund that’s making money off federal student loan debt. We can’t let this mindset rule our nation’s education policy for the next four years! We need leaders who will *invest* in our public schools—not defund, demonize, and destroy them.

We also need leaders who know schools should be safe spaces for children. So on Jan. 19, we’ll also be demanding that our schools and campuses be sanctuary spaces from the threat of deportation, racism and bullying.

In October, 100,000 people in 200 communities (including dozens of AFT locals) participated in our last day of action. Will you help us make this one even larger?. Together, we’ll send a message to Washington—on the day before the presidential inauguration—that we will stand strong with our students, our schools, and our communities.

Building reps are the lifeblood and opinion leaders of our local. We can’t pull off a successful Day of Action with you! Thank you in advance for making this important event a success.

In unity,

[local president]