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

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

Welcome back 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.

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.

You and I believe that 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.

On Jan. 19, there’s something we can do.

***Our local’s action will be [insert action, time, place, other groups joining with you, etc.] Won’t you join us, and ask your colleagues to join us too?***

This Day of Action is our chance to speak out as educators for the future of our schools and students—against DeVos as secretary of education. DeVos is not the leader we need to reclaim the promise of America’s public schools. She would 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. This one needs to be even larger. Will you join us? 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.

In unity,

[local president]