



A Union of Professionals

Why the Supreme Court matters

From where our children go to school (*Brown v. Board*, 1954), to whom we can marry (*Obergefell v. Hodges*, 2015; *Loving v. Virginia*, 1967), to the rights we have over our own bodies (*Roe v. Wade*, 1973), the Supreme Court's rulings shape our lives. The court can defy a president (*New York Times Co. v. United States*, 1971, the Pentagon Papers case) or decide who becomes president (*Bush v. Gore*, 2000). Because a seat on the Supreme Court is for life, and because the court's decisions touch every corner of our lives, the stakes are high when it comes to choosing the new justice.

In the coming years, we'll likely see the court take cases on workers' rights, voting rights, women's health, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, immigrants' rights, our drinking water and our air quality, and free speech and freedom of the press. The new justice will likely be the swing vote on the court on these issues and many more.

That's why it's so important to fill this vacancy with a fair-minded, thoughtful, independent justice who reflects American mainstream values and honors the rights of *all* Americans. Does Donald Trump's nominee, Judge Neil Gorsuch, meet that standard?

From denying American women the right to contraceptive coverage under the Affordable Care Act, to depriving students with disabilities of the full protections of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, to putting corporate power and profits ahead of the health and safety of American workers, Gorsuch has ruled again and again on the side of big money and corporate special interests—and against the rest of us.

"As a judge, he has twisted himself into a pretzel to make sure the rules favor giant companies over workers and individual Americans," says Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass).¹

Our senators need to ask Gorsuch some tough questions—about his record and about his ability to stand up to a president who has already vocally attacked judges whose decisions displeased him.²

Let's urge our senators to take a good, hard look at Gorsuch. They need to demand answers—because who gets picked for the Supreme Court matters for us, and for generations to come.

¹ "Trump Chooses Neil Gorsuch, a Conservative Seen as Likely to Be Confirmed, for Supreme Court," *Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 31, 2017, www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-pol-trump-supreme-court-20170131-story.html.

² "Trump Attacks Another Federal Judge," *CNN*, Feb. 5, 2017, www.cnn.com/2017/02/04/politics/donald-trump-attacks-federal-judge-travel-ban/.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of 1.6 million professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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