Rap for Discussing Janus with Members (includes inoculation)

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Hi \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? This is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from [your local union]. I’m calling with an important update about a recent Supreme Court decision that is going to affect our union. The case was called *Janus v. AFSCME*. Have you heard about it?

This lawsuit, which was funded by anti-union groups and billionaires, was brought to the Supreme Court in an attempt to divide working people. The case attacked a 40-year-old Supreme Court ruling that allowed workers to stand united through the use of fair-share fees. The idea behind that precedent was that everyone benefits from contracts and representation, so everyone should pay their fair share of union fees.

Under this new ruling by the Supreme Court, many of the rights and protections that we’ve won in our contracts could be at risk if we don’t stick together. What is the most important thing in your contract that you would want to protect?

The best way to maintain [your priority interest] and the other protections we have in our contract now and in the future is to stick together. Right now, since the Supreme Court has taken this position against workers, we are making sure that we take a stand by [union action; for example, signing a petition of unity that we’ll deliver to the school district or other employer, etc.]. Will you stand with your co-workers and [take the action]?

[If YES] Great! Where can I meet you to make sure you [take the action]?

[If NO] If fewer people participate in your union, the [school district or other employer] will know that there are fewer people who will be upset if something like [your priority issue] is no longer a protected right in their contract. Won’t you stand with your co-workers to make sure that those rights are protected?

[INOCULATION]

So let me ask you, now that these anti-union groups have gotten a ruling they liked from the Supreme Court, do you think they will stop there?

What we have already seen in other parts of the country is that these same groups are taking advantage of the ruling by taking steps to hurt working people. There are a couple of ways they are doing that:

* They are sometimes going door-to-door asking people to cancel their union membership, telling people they can give themselves a raise by not paying their union dues.
* They are forming anti-union teacher organizations that have cheaper dues than [your local union] because they don’t have to pay for staff, offices, representation, or fighting for working people.
* They are distributing flyers that try to make the union seem like it is an independent group rather than the group of united professionals that give us our strength.

Who do you think gains if people follow some of these tactics? It will be the billionaires and employers who will no longer have to contend with the voices of our members when making decisions on wages, benefits and working conditions.

All of these strategies are attempts to weaken the union so they can impose their own policies without our input. So what would you say to someone who is trying to convince you or your co-workers to follow them?