

1 STRENGTHENING THE OHIO FEDERATION OF TEACHERS THROUGH MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND
2 RECOMMITMENT CAMPAIGNS
3
4

5 WHEREAS, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) is composed of people who fight every day for a
6 better life for themselves and others, and who deeply care about the students they serve and the
7 members they represent; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the OFT promotes and defends the freedom of working people to earn a decent living,
10 support their families, have work-life balance, access important public services like good schools and
11 high-quality healthcare, and retire with dignity; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the OFT secures these freedoms for all working people through our work at the bargaining
14 table, at the ballot box and in grass-roots actions, and through the work our members do for students
15 and our communities; and therefore unions, historically and today, are the best vehicle for working
16 people to join together to seek and secure a better life and the American dream; and
17

18 WHEREAS, public sector unions and the work we do are severely at risk in light of the U.S. Supreme
19 Court decision to hear the Janus v. AFSCME Council 31 case which threatens to upend 40 years of
20 precedent affirming the constitutionality of fair-share fees—meaning that if a person has the benefits
21 of union representation, the person pays a fair share for that representation; and
22

23 WHEREAS, this case is being pushed by corporate interests and certain politicians who want to
24 privatize our public education system. These anti-union forces understand that unions, like the OFT,
25 fight to create a level playing field. That’s why, in addition to speaking out in support of Janus, these
26 corporate interests and politicians are waging an \$80 million campaign across the country to, in their
27 words, “defund and defang” unions ; and
28

29 WHEREAS, building a union movement for the future is not simply about repelling and resisting the
30 attacks of those who seek our demise; it is about strengthening the work of each and every local so our
31 members and our communities see themselves and their aspirations in our advocacy. That is what
32 unionism is—the collective work to achieve a better life for the people we serve and represent
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Federation of Teachers is committed to helping each of our 15,000
35 members and our locals in the fight against this assault on our existence and funding.
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each local of the OFT conduct a recommitment campaign in an effort
38 to get 100% of our members recommit to their local union by June 1, 2018, and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each OFT local conduct one-on-one conversations with their
41 members, build strong worksite leadership structures and mobilize members around campaigns,
42 including contract and issues campaigns, that matter to our members and their communities, and
43

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each OFT local commit to increasing their current COPE contributions
45 to OFT by an average amount of \$3.00 per member to be used to support pro-labor, pro-public
46 education candidates,
47

48 AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the OFT commit resources and supports to locals to ensure the
49 success of our recommitment campaign and COPE drive.