

Union fees struck down, delivering blow to Calif. labor

By Adam Ashton and Emily Cadei, Sacramento Bee

California's public employee unions were handed a serious blow in a Supreme Court ruling Wednesday that forbids them from collecting fees from workers who benefit from their representation but do not want to join them.

In a 5 to 4 ruling, the court determined that public sector unions' so-called "fair share" fees violate "the free speech rights of nonmembers by compelling them to subsidize private speech on matters of substantial public concern."

The decision in *Janus vs. AFSCME* effectively makes California a "right to work" state, ending a 41-year precedent that allowed public sector unions to levy so-called fair share fees on workers who don't belong to labor organizations.

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