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## **Compulsory unionism and worker freedom**

Timothy Sandefur ("Union dues and free speech," Commentary, Wednesday) notes that it's high time that workers' rights not to fund union politics against their will be protected by the Supreme Court.

I could not agree more. Nonunion employees who are forced to pay union fees or be terminated have already chosen not to associate so their dissent from union politics should be presumed. Unions should get permission before using government-coerced and -extracted collective-bargaining fees for politics.

A correct court decision will bring some justice but it won't solve the fundamental problem of forced union dues as a condition of employment.

The paycheck protection law under the court's review has not limited the ill effects of compulsory unionism -- such as forced dues for politics, as well as intimidation, harassment and ostracism for those who differ from the union's point of view. It has transformed public schools from a free marketplace of ideas to an institution characterized by groupthink, conformity and silence, born out of fear for one's livelihood.

The solution is passage of right-to-work laws that ban forced dues and exclusive bargaining privileges. These laws would make unions earn the right to serve and speak for the workers they are supposed to represent. They would protect one of the American worker's most fundamental and cherished rights, the First Amendment.

CINDY OMLIN  
Executive Director  
Northwest Professional Educators  
Spokane, Wash.

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