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Democrats circumvent Supreme Court's *Janus* decision

HB 2016 endangers employees' choice and gives public unions their personal information

SALEM, Oregon – When Democrats don't like the outcome of court decisions or elections, they attempt to void the results and rewrite the rules. Oregon's super majority dealt a blow to freedom of conscience today when it turned aside a Republican alternative that would have protected public employees from union intimidation and kept their personal information private.

Instead of gracefully accepting the Supreme Court's 2018 *Janus* decision, Democrats have resorted to subterfuge in order to thwart the decision. HB 2016 was all about Democrats rewriting the rules in favor of the unions who put them in power. The bill's sole purpose was to circumvent the U.S. Supreme Court's decision.

In passing HB 2016, Democrats put workers at the mercy of government union power. Democrats didn't stand by an employee's freedom to choose, instead giving that power to government unions. Democrats didn't provide a safe place for workers, who now are faced with union retaliation if they don't fall in line. The Supreme Court recognized government employees have the constitutional right to choose to affiliate or not. Today, Oregon Democrats ceded much of that power to the unions.

Republican Leader Rep. Carl Wilson (R-Grants Pass) said public sector unions immediately began efforts to blunt the impact of the decision. HB 2016 allows the union to discuss collective bargaining and union activities with all new hires and establish "reasonable conduct" for all employees attending workplace meetings. Unions will also receive workers' personal telephone numbers from public employers.

"That sounds ominous for someone who just wants to be left alone with their own decision," said Wilson. "This doesn't sound like freedom to me."

In passing HB 2016, Democrats have handed their public union backers everything they need to continue funneling their energy and support into the super majority party's campaigns.

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