



## SUPREME COURT OPINION IS A WIN, BUT RIGHT TO WORK STILL APPLIES IN MICHIGAN

The Supreme Court issued an opinion Tuesday in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, rejecting an attempt to restrict the rights of public civil servants to band together in a union.

The Court Justices deadlocked 4-4 in the case, meaning a decision from a lower court, which ruled agency fees are legal, will stand.

With the backing of wealthy special interests, Friedrichs asked the high court to ban agency fees for all public employee unions. In effect, this could have made it so all public employees in

the country were under Right to Work.

This is a huge victory for working people around the nation, but it doesn't change Right to Work laws in Michigan. We are still subject to Right to Work. Friedrichs focused on public employee unions in states without Right to Work laws.

Michigan public employees are not required to pay agency fees, thanks to state Right to Work laws passed in 2012. But MCO leaders and staff paid attention to this case. Why? Because Friedrichs could have had far-reaching implications for the U.S. labor move-

ment for decades. It could have eroded the voices of teachers, nurses, firefighters, police, and corrections officers around the nation by weakening their ability to collectively bargain. MCO is pleased this effort to weaken unions was ineffective.

"Wealthy special interests know that when people come together in unions, we make major gains for all working people—like higher pay and investing in public education and in public safety for every family and community," MCO President Tom Tylutki said.

## AROUND THE STATE: MORE HUGE FOOD BOYCOTTS AT URF; ESCAPE ATTEMPT AT LMF

**Inmates on URF's west side boycotted the kitchen Saturday through Monday.**

Fewer than 100 inmates showed up to any meal on Saturday. Again on Sunday, fewer than 100 prisoners went to any meal. On Monday, fewer than 30 inmates ate breakfast and about 70 ate lunch. Monday night's dinner count was similar to the number who showed up for lunch.

URF west has about 1,000 inmates.

**An Alger prisoner made it more than halfway up an electric perimeter fence today.**

He was supposed to be on his way to lunch when he dashed to the fence. The prisoner was shocked as he climbed the fence, officers say, but he was wearing extra clothing and was able to keep going.

The facility is on lock down. The inmate will be transferred to another prison. *Kudos to all the staff who quickly responded.*

**Gus Harrison officers quelled a seven-inmate fight Tuesday.**

The clash between Level II inmates broke out on the yard, and officers say it was gang related.

The inmates were taken to segregation.

**Brooks officers intervened in a five-prisoner fight Wednesday.**

The altercation broke out while the inmates were en route to chow. No serious injuries were reported.

## MCO In-Depth: officers around the state give accounts of food service privatization problems for U-M study

Did you see our MCO In-Depth this week?

The profit motive of Michigan prisons' private food vendor led to food shortages, security vulnerabilities, and overall dangerous conditions behind the walls.

That's the takeaway from the new report, "Food Service Privatization in

Michigan's Prisons: Observations of Corrections Officers," published by the Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy (IRLEE) at the University of Michigan.

MCO issued an In-Depth report Wednesday on the study's findings. You can read the In-Depth and find a link to the report at [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org).

## UPDATED OEL CHART ONLINE

MCO staff has updated the OEL chart to reflect language in the 2016-2018 contract.

The new chart is available at [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org). MDOC Labor Relations has also sent the chart to all wardens and personnel offices.

MCO and OSE are in the final stages of proofreading and finalizing the contract for printing. Until it's printed, members can access it at [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org).