

Statement by Valarie Long, Executive Vice President of SEIU

“Congratulations to the hard-working janitors at Target stores in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

“You have set an example and built a model for workers across this country to follow, especially in our country's enormous retail sector.

“You have won new protections of your fundamental rights and new safety protections, as well as an end to the some of the most exploitative practices in the retail janitorial industry.

“And perhaps most importantly, you have won the ability to make these gains permanent by winning the right to collectively bargain with your employers, to sit down as equals and determine both the nature and value of your work.

“I believe that a new day is breaking in our country, and this victory is among the first rays of a new dawn. This is not just a victory for Minneapolis retail janitors, their families, and their communities. It could also have a far-reaching impact on the future of our country as it will lead to improvements at other Target stores nationally and give new hope to all underpaid workers fighting for justice—whether they are security officers, food-service workers, laundry workers, adjunct professors, healthcare workers, or fast-food workers.”