

MICHIGAN

THE BATTLEGROUND FOR RIGHT TO WORK

Greeting Brothers and Sisters:

For far too long, Michigan's middle class families have struggled to make ends meet.

We understand that hard economic times mean shared sacrifice, and we've been sharing those sacrifices for a long time now. State politicians have been too busy pandering to the Tea Party and giving handouts to corporations that outsource jobs, instead of investing in our kids education and creating jobs.

Now, State politicians and their special interest friends are trying to pass a law to weaken the middle class once again. By undermining workers rights these CEO's gain even more profits at the expense of **our** jobs, **our** retirement securities, and **our** children's future.

Governor Rick Snyder and the anti-Union politicians in the legislature have moved one anti-worker measure after another by doing nothing to help put Michigan back to work. We need our elected leaders to help create the kind of jobs that pay fair wages and help give our kids the education they need to have a better life.

Last week Right to Work legislation was introduced in Michigan. Right to Work is *not* about rebuilding Michigan. This is about the politicians, plain and simple. These politicians want to pass this law that would undermine Unions effectively taking away workers rights and their voice, and the greedy CEO's could write their own golden ticket.

So called Right to Work laws are part of a larger anti-worker effort by multinational corporations to boost their profits, while still enabling them to outsource more American jobs overseas.

Let's be honest this is not about rebuilding Michigan. If it were, middle class families in this state would be better off. In Right to Work States like Mississippi, Texas, and Idaho, workers' pensions were gutted. Thousands of workers who had been contributing to their pensions for decades were left with broken promises and no retirement securities.

So called "Right to Work" gives more power to Governor Snyder, the State Legislature and the Emergency managers to eliminate Unions and cut wages and benefits for our teachers, firefighters, and police. They are trying to weaken the voices of everyday working people who are trying to protect our children's educators, or speak out against the tax breaks for the rich.

In tough economic times the legislature should not be punishing Nurses, teachers, firefighters, snow plow drivers, and our hardworking families, who have already sacrificed enough, by accepting furlough days, double digit jumps in health care premiums and wage freezes year after year.

The real motive behind these attacks on teachers, nurses, and firefighters is to **silence the voices of Michigan workers** by having a state without Unions; where no one stands up for workers when Wall Street executives outsource jobs to cut workers benefits.

Politicians and CEO's know that the Unions are a check on corporate greed, and they are working to silence the collective voice of workers. If corporate CEO's behind these attacks succeed in weakening Unions, what will be left to check corporate power and fight outsourcing? They will be able to rob workers of their voice, lower wages, ship more jobs to China and gain even more power for corporate America.

They claim that Michigan is lagging behind the rest of the country in nearly all economic indicators. The failure to attract new investments and new jobs is killing our economy. At the same time jobs are growing in the right to work states and we need to give Michigan communities the economic tools needed to grow and attract jobs.

We say " We do need to rebuild Michigan". We need to invest in our kids, in our public schools, in the health and safety of our citizens. We need jobs GOOD JOBS that can support a family! But so called Right to Work laws do not create jobs, instead they hurt the economy and workers. If the Right to Work laws pass in Michigan it would make it easier for corporations to do these things and short change workers.

In states that have Right to Work Laws, workers have a lower standard of living, make an average of \$1500.00 less per year and go without health insurance more frequently. Oklahoma is the only State to adopt Right to Work law in the past decade. State legislators promised companies would

relocate to Oklahoma because of it and there would be more jobs available, but 10 years later, Jobs fell by 25% and the number of companies moving there dropped 33%. In States like South Carolina, Mississippi, and Arkansas workers have lower wages by an average of 3.2%, no benefits and no job security.

They claim “We need to stand up to unions who have bankrupted our State.”

We say “ Unions did not bankrupt the state. The economy collapsed thanks to Wall Street's recklessness, CEO greed and the corrupt politicians who gave them the freedom to do whatever they desired.

What matters most now is that we all work together to restore our economy and create jobs that put people back work (Unions, Businesses, Government, and Taxpayer's) don't let them wreck good middle class jobs that support Michigan families.

Submitted by
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