



PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST CONDEMNING MICHIGAN ASSAULT ON UNIONS

New York City – Lame duck Republicans in Michigan have ripped up and thrown out a chapter of that state’s long and proud labor history, ramming through a “right to work” law that will force unions to represent people who do not pay dues.

The Writers Guild of America, East condemns this transparent effort to deprive organized labor of resources and to drive wages and benefits down, down, down.

As a union that represents, among others, television, film and broadcast-news writers, we recognize that a cleverly-drafted phrase can make pure fiction seem real. “Right to work” is exactly such a phrase. What the Michigan politicians did has nothing to do with “rights” or “work”. It has to do with weakening organized opposition. A power grab, pure and simple. Knocking the props from under unions will not improve the lives of anyone who works for a living. People will be forced to work for lower wages and reduced (or nonexistent) benefits, without a voice on the job. Income inequality will continue to expand, the rich will get even wealthier, and the rest of us will struggle harder and harder to make ends meet. Or, at least, this will happen unless we reject the distorted fairy-tale rushed through by Michigan’s cynical politicians.

Writers Guild of America, East

The Writers Guild of America, East, AFL-CIO (WGAE) is a labor union representing writers in motion pictures, television, cable, digital media, and broadcast news. The Guild negotiates and administers contracts that protect the creative and economic rights of their members; conducts programs, seminars, and events on issues of interest to writers; and present writers’ views to various bodies of government. For more information on the Writers Guild of America, East, visit www.wgaeast.org.

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