

RESOLUTION #7

**AFT MICHIGAN
70TH CONVENTION
MAY 2-3, 2008**

IN OPPOSITION TO “RIGHT-TO-WORK”

Whereas, “Right-To-Work” (“RTW”) laws do not give anyone more rights nor enable more people to work; and

Whereas, In Michigan’s public sector, unions and management may negotiate contracts that require all employees to share in the costs of representation. Members and employer governing boards adopt these contracts through majority consent; and

Whereas, Michigan is a state where labor and management work together leading to more productive workplaces; and

Whereas, Good labor/management relations have strengthened the economy through higher wages, better benefits and healthcare for all, and, therefore, more purchasing power; and

Whereas, If Michigan becomes a “RTW” state these representation fee contract provisions would be illegal, therefore, undermining unions and strong labor/management relations; and

Whereas, Proponents of “RTW” claim it will improve the economy and promote growth by attracting employers and jobs. The facts are quite the opposite. Union workers make 15 to 20 percent more, giving them greater spending power. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that North Carolina, a Right-To-Work state, had the highest manufacturing job loss in the country. They found the highest job increases, on a month-to-month basis, were in non-RTW states; and

Whereas, The negative social impact of “RTW” is a lower quality of life. “RTW” states have a lower median household income, less money going into K-12 public schools, higher poverty rate, greater numbers of people without healthcare, leading to increased infant mortality rates. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That AFT Michigan opposes any legislation, ballot initiative or candidate who would support “RTW” concepts in Michigan and undermine labor union membership and strong labor/management relations, and inhibiting growth in our communities and our state, and **BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED: To work to maintain strong unions, benefits, salaries, wages and necessary Pre K-12, college, university, and public sector funding for the workers of Michigan.

Submitted by:
Lamphere Federation of Teachers #1614