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**EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE**

**Congressman George Miller, Chairman**

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Press Office, 202-226-0853

## **Chairman Andrews Statement at Joint Subcommittee Hearing on National Labor Relations Board**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Below are the prepared remarks of U.S. Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions at a joint House-Senate subcommittee hearing on “The National Labor Relations Board: Recent Decisions and Their Impact on Workers’ Rights.”

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Good morning and welcome to our joint hearing today entitled "The National Labor Relations Board: Recent Decisions and Their Impact on Workers’ Rights." The Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee is honored to be joined by the Senate Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee, chaired by the distinguished Senator from Washington, Senator Murray.

During today’s hearing, the committee will focus its attention on the 61 decisions the Board issued in September of this year. A majority of these decisions are viewed as many as a major shift in labor policy and an assault on the American worker and his or her right to collectively bargain. Specifically, many of these decisions are seen as undermining voluntary card check agreements and workers’ remedies such as the ability to recover backpay.

The purpose of the National Relations Labor Act (NLRA) is to encourage collective bargaining. I am sure we will hear arguments today that argue this is no longer the purpose of the Act – which somehow the enactment of Taft-Hartley did away with this purpose. To simply put it, this premise is wrong.

Our purpose today is to examine whether the Board has 1) upheld the first principle of the NLRA (that is, encouraging collective bargaining) 2) distinguished between routine fact pattern and egregious fact pattern and 3) whether they applied the necessary remedial tools in those decisions. As Members of this committee and Congress, we have the right to alter these decisions if we conclude that these decisions are going in the wrong way as a matter of public policy.

A major contributor to the “middle class squeeze” is the decline in workers’ freedom to organize and collectively bargain. When workers get their fair share, the economy benefits and the middle class grows stronger. The freedom to organize and collectively bargain has been under severe assault in recent decades and it is our role to determine whether the Board’s recent decisions are contributing to the problem.

I thank the distinguished panel of witnesses we have before us today and look forward to hearing all of their testimony.

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