

**EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE**

**Congressman George Miller, Chairman**

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Press Office, 202-226-0853

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, issued the following statement today 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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Workers’ rights have been under near-constant assault in the years since the start of the Bush administration.

We see it in a Supreme Court led by Bush appointees who hand down decisions that make it harder for workers to get justice when they are the victims of workplace discrimination. We see it in a highly politicized Labor Department that acts like an arm of the far right, each day looking for new ways to undermine workers’ rights and workers’ organizations.

And we see it in the anti-worker agenda of the National Labor Relations Board. Over the last several years, brick by brick, the NLRB has worked to dismantle the foundation of workers’ rights in this country – the right to organize.

The rights of workers to join together and bargain collectively for a better deal are fundamental human rights. These rights are enshrined in the National Labor Relations Act, the purpose of which is clear: to protect workers’ full freedom of association and encourage collective bargaining.

When those rights are undermined, it makes it harder for all Americans to get their fair share of the benefits of their productivity. It weakens and shrinks our middle class. It makes our economy more unequal and less stable.

That’s what’s at stake when the National Labor Relations Board makes national labor policy. And that’s why it is so important that this Congress pay close attention to the Board’s activities. The Board’s recent decisions to, among other things, make it less costly for employers to unlawfully fire union supporters or more difficult for workers to freely organize a union are deeply disturbing – an indication that the Board has not just veered far from its mission but is now driving in the opposite direction of the rights that Congress ordered the Board to enforce.

I applaud Chairman Andrews and Chairwoman Murray for holding this important hearing today, and I look forward to hearing the testimony.

Thank you.

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