

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2011

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***AFT Michigan Hopes to Hear Specifics from Snyder on Budget  
Will Budget Priorities Reflect the Importance of P-20 Education to Michigan's  
Future?***

LANSING, MI—American Federation of Teachers Michigan President David Hecker will be available to reporters on Thursday, February 17 to respond to Governor Rick Snyder's budget address.

"We look forward to hearing the Governor's proposed budget for rebuilding Michigan," said Hecker. "Support for education is an investment in our children and Michigan's future. The Governor has often emphasized the crucial role of early childhood education, great K-12 public schools, and strong colleges and universities, and we hope this budget reflects a real investment."

As shown by recent reports documenting dramatic increases in the number of Michigan children living in poverty and receiving free or reduced lunch, our students and communities need support more than ever at this moment. "While we're all doing more with less, we hope the Governor recognizes that we won't rebuild our economy through cuts alone" said Hecker. "The small and medium-sized businesses that will provide the jobs of tomorrow rely on strong public services, infrastructure, and a well-educated population. Now is the time for us to dig deep and find real solutions."

Who: David Hecker, President, American Federation of Teachers Michigan

What: Response to Governor Snyder's Budget Address

When: Thursday, February 17

Where: VIA cell 313-204-6115

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*AFT Michigan is a union of 35,000-members working in PreK- 12 and intermediate school districts, community colleges, universities, and local government. Our 98 locals extend as far south as Monroe and north to Whitefish Township in the Upper Peninsula.*