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**Press**

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CONTACT PERSON:

Beth Thoreson

313-505-1141

bthoreson@aftmichigan.org

## Temporary Order Issued Against Use Of Inaccurate Offender List

DETROIT – In an action brought by AFT Michigan, U.S. District Court Judge Paul Gadola today issued a temporary restraining order stopping the use of an inaccurate list of school employees who have allegedly committed crimes. The list, mandated by recent legislation, was proven to include numerous inaccuracies including the false labeling of employees as sex offenders and assailants.

The use of the inaccurate list resulted, in at least one example, of an employee being labeled a sex offender and terminated even though the employee had never been convicted of any crime.

Judge Gadola ordered that the defendants, the State of Michigan, Department of State Police and the Department of Education, “are restrained and enjoined from releasing” this list and that the Defendants “shall recall all copies previously released.”

AFT Michigan President David Hecker stated that, “the order means that school employees are, as they should be, considered innocent until proven guilty.” School employees may be terminated if they have committed certain offenses if the school employer can prove that they have been convicted. This order does not mean that guilty people will work in the schools. However, a school district may not confront an innocent employee and force them to prove that they have not been convicted of a crime.

Hecker applauded the Judge’s analysis that “there is still danger of immediate and irreparable harm to ...[employees]...that cannot be fully remedied by money damages, as there is a very great likelihood that an innocent person named on the list will suffer an injury to their reputation and possible discharge of employment.

“We have issues with certain portions of these laws beyond list accuracy,” Hecker stated. But Judge Gadola’s decision is a significant development as it presumes innocence, a cornerstone of our legal system.”

The order is valid for ten days. The court will, in the near future, set a time for a hearing to determine whether to make the order permanent.

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*AFT (American Federation of Teachers) Michigan is a union of 35,000-members working in K-12 and intermediate school districts, community colleges, universities, and local government. The 94 locals extend as far south as Monroe and north to Whitefish Township in the Upper Peninsula.*