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### SNYDER ADMINISTRATION AGAIN TRYING TO SCAPEGOAT STATE WORKERS

**MAY 19, 2016, LANSING, MICHIGAN**—The latest attempt by the Snyder administration to deflect blame for their own monumental failures and punish state workers is legislation announced at a press conference this morning by Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mt. Pleasant) and Rep. Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway). The legislation—a resolution and a bill—was introduced today and would make it easier to fire state workers, bypassing long-established Civil Service rules. A proposed constitutional amendment would increase the power of state department heads and give them the ability to fire or discipline a state worker who they feel doesn't go along with the department's mission.

This flings open the door to corruption in state government, according to the **Coalition of State Employee Unions**. There are already effective procedures in place, established via the Michigan Civil Service Commission, to discipline and fire state workers.

Governors used to have the power to fire state employees and reward their own political cronies and campaign contributors with their jobs. Over the years, this "spoils system" created rampant corruption and abuses in state government. This led to the creation of a Civil Service statute in 1937 which the Michigan Legislature tried to eliminate a few years later. Michigan citizens were so outraged, they proposed a constitutional amendment adopted in 1940 and incorporated into the Constitution (Article 6, Section 22) which created a Civil Service Commission.

The legislation proposed today by Speaker Cotter and Rep. Lauwers would amend Michigan's Constitution. But it would need a 2/3 vote of both the state House and Senate to get on the ballot.

The Snyder administration continues to scapegoat state workers for the abject failure of their policies—the terrible Flint water crisis, the privatization failures at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, prison food service contractor scandals, and the Unemployment Insurance Agency's unemployment benefit robofraud. Meanwhile, Michigan ranks dead last among the 50 states on transparency and open records laws.

By weakening the state's Civil Service, the current system of checks and balances would disappear, protection against workplace injustice would be nonexistent, and at-will jobs would prevail. This is one instance where the "good old days" weren't all that good.

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