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ATT: IEA Leadership
FROM: Presidents, SIUC-FA and GAU
December 16, 2020

This fall, the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Faculty Association (FA) and Graduate Assistants United (GAU) made our disapproval of Representative Mike Bost patently clear in our unanimous opposition to the IEA's endorsement of him. We are now compelled to demand that the IEA reconsider its support of him, given that he signed the amicus brief in support of the Texas State's Attorney's baseless, ludicrous attempt to overturn the Presidential election.

The suit represents an attack on democracy and civil rights. The suit's aim was to disenfranchise voters. That Bost signaled his support of this suit should, perhaps, come as no surprise: he is a party loyalist who refuses to engage with his diverse constituency, and his track record on civil rights issues is abysmal.

The FA and GAU have long been convinced that Bost is hostile to the values that we, as educators, work to protect. We understand that Bost's NEA rating has risen from a "C" to "B," but we're not convinced that he has done anything of substance for educators. Indeed, we're not convinced that he has done—or will do—anything for the students and families that we serve. The Main Street Caucus, in which he plays a role, has had little to no effect on crossing the aisle and working toward helping citizens in a time of national crisis (a devastating pandemic, an economic downward spiral, a climate crisis, and a world fraught with racial injustices). Members of the IEA know that social issues intertwine with educational concerns, and we should know that the work we do as educators in our region is hampered by Bost's overall platform.

Bost's participation in the Texas case is the last straw. We opposed the IEA's endorsement of Bost in the past, and the fact that we were outvoted before was a "tough sell" to our existing and potential members. In the future we will strongly oppose any IEA endorsement of Bost, and we will be very public in our criticism of past, present, or future actions by Representative Bost that are harmful to education and our democracy generally.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Anne Fletcher".

Anne Fletcher
SIUC-FA President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Wilcoxon".

Anna Wilcoxon
President, Graduate Assistants United