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News from the Michigan Association for Justice

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MAJ Backs Bills to Combat Payroll Fraud, Protect Workers' Paychecks *Legislation would crack down on companies that cheat employees, taxpayers*

LANSING—Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ) President Robert J. MacDonald today issued the following statement in support of legislation that would protect the paychecks of Michigan workers by cracking down on companies that commit payroll fraud. Companies that misclassify employees as contractors and commit other forms of payroll fraud steal hundreds of millions of dollars from workers and taxpayers every year:

“For far too long, unscrupulous business owners and CEOs have gotten away with increasing profits by stealing wages and overtime pay from their employees and shifting costs on to taxpayers. Without stronger laws, these crooks will be able to continue to operate with impunity. The bills introduced today will put in place real protections for Michigan workers and new tools for officials to combat payroll fraud and hold bad actors accountable.

We call on legislative leaders to take immediate action. It’s time to protect the paychecks of workers and bring those who break the law and unfairly profit at the expense of Michigan families to justice.”

The bills introduced today (HBs 4868-4879) would:

- Increase civil and criminal penalties for payroll theft;
- Strengthen whistleblower protections and create incentives to turn in violators;
- Audit companies that commit violations; and,
- Require companies that cheat workers to pay back-wages and benefits.

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*The **Michigan Association for Justice**, formerly the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA), is a professional association of over 1,500 plaintiff's attorneys and staff, with offices in Lansing, Michigan.*