



THE "SNYDER FLU" EPIDEMIC

IS SPREADING AMONG STUDENTS AND TEACHERS:

SEEK URGENT MEDICAL CARE ON JANUARY **25**

NEW: All Out to the Injunction Hearing!

Monday, January 25, 2016 at 11am, Cadillac Place (3044 W. Grand Blvd.), in the courtroom of Judge Cynthia Stevens, 14th floor

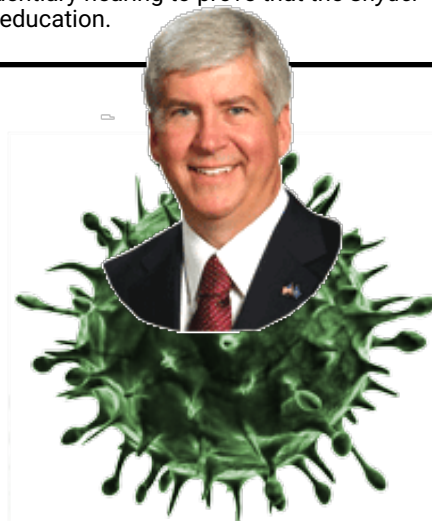
In a desperate attempt to halt the growing struggle of the teachers, students, and our countless supporters, Governor Snyder and Emergency Manager Earley have sought a court injunction to order an end to the sickout. Their attorneys will argue that the sick-out is harmful to education. BAMN national chair and attorney Shanta Driver will argue the opposite: Shanta Driver will call for an evidentiary hearing to prove that the *Snyder takeover*—not the sickout—is the real harm to education.

[The following text was distributed prior to the January 20 day of action. That day, more than ninety schools were closed due to the "Snyder flu" epidemic.]

The *Strike-to-Win Committee*—a group initiated by EON/BAMN that includes teachers, students, and other community members—voted to carry out urgent action for this Wednesday.

The nation is now watching as the tyranny of Governor Snyder's takeover regimes is facing increased pressure. *We are the most important source of that pressure*, the only source that the politicians do not control. Snyder and other politicians hope to weather the storm, waiting for the struggle and the publicity to diminish, so that they can maintain the undemocratic takeovers of cities like Detroit and Flint and continue to impose their destructive plans. Their tactic has one weakness: *we have the control over whether our struggle will escalate or diminish*. We must use that power to win.

On the morning of January 20, the American Federation of Teachers will hear the appeal of the elected DFT President, Steve Conn. This is an important moment to challenge the takeover, as Snyder's allies in the teachers' union removed Steve Conn from office precisely in order to prevent the union from fighting. Randi Weingarten and Ivy Bailey engineered the undemocratic takeover of the union, in the style of Snyder's Emergency Manager regimes, and the January



Snyderus takeoverus: a virus that belongs to the genus *corruptus tyrannus*, it is a highly contagious illness that has plagued the state of Michigan. Symptoms include lead poisoning (Flint), destruction of public schools, overcrowded classes, teacher layoffs and pay cuts, deficiencies in text books and other classroom materials, and the dictatorial suppression of the democratic rights of the people.

20 hearing will be their key moment to lock the doors on membership democracy. We cannot allow Snyder's allies to control our union. We must demand our right to democratic control of our union, our schools, and our city.

The "Snyder flu" sickouts have been the most successful mass actions that teachers and students have made against the takeover. But we cannot sit back now and hope that the media attention will bring change. We must demand a real cure to the "Snyder flu," and make clear that we will not accept anything less.

The necessary Wellness Plan: holistic treatment to achieve a healthy educational system

Do not be deceived by quick-fix band-aids and cheap substitutes. Demand the only genuine cure. Demand the necessary treatment to achieve a healthy educational system, as follows:

(1) Restore the full, real democratic rights of the people of Detroit now. End all takeovers—over our schools, over our city government, and over the teachers' union, the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT). Abolish all Emergency Manager regimes; fire EM Earley. All real power in Detroit needs to be *of the people, by the people, for the people*.

(2) No more attacks on our public schools! No more school closings, no more charters, no more selling our schools to charter companies. *Our children are not for sale*.

(3) Reject the Snyder Plan, along with the mountain of lies told to sell it. The Snyder Plan is merely a lightly veiled scheme for the *mass closure of our public schools and the mass charterization of what is left*. Any "new money" will merely be a subsidy for more charter schools and an end to all but a token few real public schools. (See Steve Conn, "Address to the Third Mass Membership Meeting: Defeating the Snyder Plan" May 3, 2015)

(4) *End the scapegoating of teachers*. Restore teachers' democratic and union rights. Reduce class sizes dramatically now. Smaller class sizes and the restoration of teachers' democratic and union rights are now essential emergency measures to start repairing the terrible damage Snyder's attacks have inflicted on the education of Detroit's young people.

(5) Restore all the EAA schools to the Detroit Public Schools—no more EAA "Snyder schools." The Governor's personal takeover of the EAA schools is a cruel scandal. The "Snyder schools" are among the worst in the country. They are an experiment that has failed brutally for our children. The disastrous EAA experiment must be ended.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY NOW / BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY (EON/BAMN)

[2016.01.19]

A Caucus Fighting for Civil Rights and Public Education in the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers
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