

The Authors Guild, Inc.

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February 24, 2015

The Honorable Pete Sessions
U.S. House of Representatives
Chairman, Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter
U. S. House of Representatives
Ranking Member, Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Rep. Jeffries' Amendment to the Rules Committee Print for H.R. 5

Dear Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member Slaughter:

I write on behalf of the Authors Guild in support of Representative Jeffries' proposed amendment to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. As you know, the Authors Guild has been the nation's leading advocate for writers' interests in effective copyright protection, fair contracts and free expression since it was founded as the Authors League of America in 1912.

Effective copyright protection is the linchpin of professional authorship: without copyright protection it would not be possible for our over 9,000 members to make a living writing. Unfortunately, Internet piracy is currently epidemic and this has a very real, detrimental impact on authors' ability to make a living. Given the difficulty of making a living writing, even relatively small losses from piracy can result in an author having to stop writing and find other work. This has a direct impact on our culture.

A citizenry educated in the threats of digital piracy is an essential part of an effective copyright regime. Many users of pirated works don't recognize piracy when they see it, and still many others fail to understand the impact piracy has on our nation's creators and culture. While we take no position on the underlying bill, the Authors Guild supports Representative Jeffries' amendment to H.R. 5 because it will ensure that teachers, parents, and other educational

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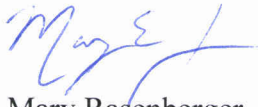
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professionals are educated on the harms caused by copyright piracy, as well as the unsafe use of technology, so that they may in turn educate students on these harms.

Thank for your consideration of the Authors Guild's support of Representative Jeffries' amendment. We also wish to thank Representative Jeffries for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely yours,



Mary Rasenberger
Executive Director,
Authors Guild