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I am Rev. Tim Ahrens, a founder of We Believe Ohio. **We Believe Ohio** welcomes you to our press conference on “Faith and Work.”

We are gathered here today, as religious leaders and people of faith to speak out about the dignity of the American worker here on the edge of Labor Day weekend. We believe there is an unjust and growing gap between rich and poor and a daily disintegration of the middle class. We also believe that the organized initiatives are underway in Ohio and many states to further destroy labor and organized workers are wrong.

We call upon all clergy to sign out We Believe Ohio Pledge. This pledge calls on all Ohio pastors, rabbis, imams and leaders of other faith traditions to address issues of labor and faith this Labor Day Weekend. We call upon our brothers and sisters in faith to lead discussions about the important ballot Issue #2 facing voters in November - sharing with congregants and members the stands of their denominations or the social teachings of their faith traditions so that all people consider the weight and effect their vote in November.

We will present views on faith and work from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim perspectives. We will hear the voice of one of those who represents hundreds of thousands of Ohioans who are men and women of faith and laborers who will be negatively effected by the passage of Issue #2. While we are issuing a call to vote no on Issue #2, we also call on those from both sides of this issue to sit down and work out agreements that will serve a model of balance in workplace justice and therefore help all Ohioans now and into the future.

We begin today with an interfaith confession spoken by voices of many faiths.