

# AFL-CIO

## LEGISLATIVE ALERT

October 9, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to cosponsor and support the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement (CASE) Act of 2019, H.R.2426, when it comes to the House floor for a vote. This bipartisan legislation addresses the critical need for a small-claims copyright case system by providing individual artistic creators an affordable dispute resolution mechanism to protect their work.

Hundreds of thousands of union members work in the creative industries, and their ability to earn a living is threatened by the theft and unauthorized use of their creative works. The CASE Act will provide added protections for their work by establishing a voluntary, streamlined process where a government tribunal at the U.S. Copyright Office can adjudicate claims made by copyright owners.

Currently, creators must bring a claim in federal court, which can be an expensive, onerous process. In today's digital era, when the theft and unauthorized use of copyrighted works is immediate, creators can suffer repeated violations of their works without any remedies.

For the members of our unions who depend on copyright protections for family-supporting pay and benefits, effective enforcement is crucial. The CASE Act would provide important improvements to our copyright law, ensuring that all creators have the opportunity to protect their work from theft. On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,



William Samuel, Director  
Government Affairs

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**American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations**

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**RICHARD L. TRUMKA**  
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**ELIZABETH H. SHULER**  
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**YEFERE GEBRE**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



October 8, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2019

Dear Members of the House of Representatives:

Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists is writing in support of the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act (CASE), H.R. 2426 and S. 1273. This necessary legislation addresses the critical need for a small-claims copyright case system where individual creators can protect their work through affordable dispute resolution. We appreciate your recognition of the need to protect these fundamental rights.

SAG-AFTRA represents 160,000 actors, singers, dancers, broadcasters and recording artists who are vulnerable of having their creations infringed upon. We were founded on the premise of fighting and securing the strongest protections for all media artists. We support policies that guard our members against unauthorized use of their creative works. This is why we endorse the CASE Act which will increase access to damages for all of our members.

With today's fast-paced modern technology, copyright intrusion can occur immediately. For our members who often lack the financial means to pursue these claims, they are left with violation after violation of their works without any remedies.

The bipartisan CASE Act would provide a voluntary, streamlined process where a government tribunal at the U.S. Copyright Office can adjudicate claims made by copyright owners. This would allow individuals to circumvent the expensive and onerous process of bringing a claim to federal court. Essentially, this act would revive practical copyright law and provide a just means for creators to protect their work from theft.

Our members make innumerable contributions to the United States economy through their artistic creations. The infringement of our members' one of a kind creations affects their ability to get compensation that would potentially fund future projects and has tremendous ripple effects for the rest of their contributions.

This legislation will better protect our members by providing an essential remedy, which we believe will also deter future infringers. Please reach out if you have any questions related to our support for this legislation.

Respectfully,



Kerri Wood Einertson  
National Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy  
SAG-AFTRA