


Workers Need a Seat at the Innovation Table

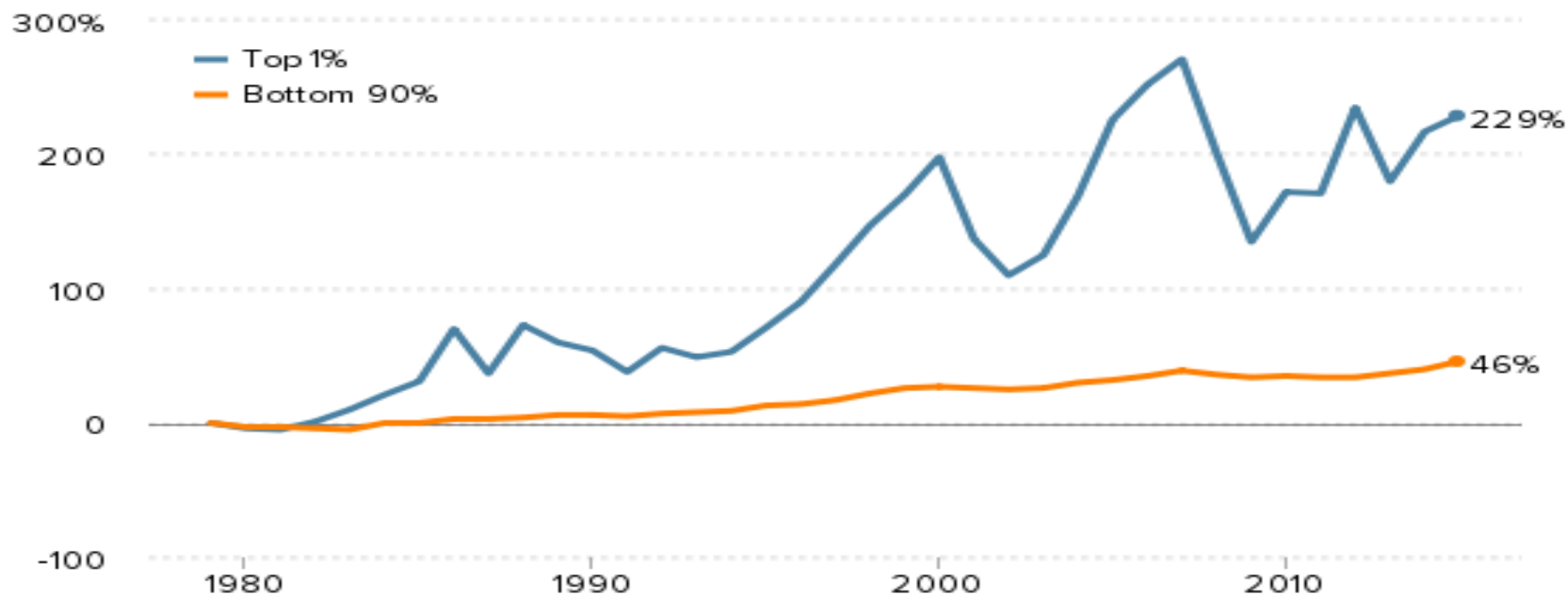
BY EDWARD WYTKIND

EWYTKIND@GMAIL.COM 

@EDWYTKIND 

Top 1 percent incomes grew five times as fast as bottom 90 percent incomes

Change in real annual average household income, by income group, 1979–2015

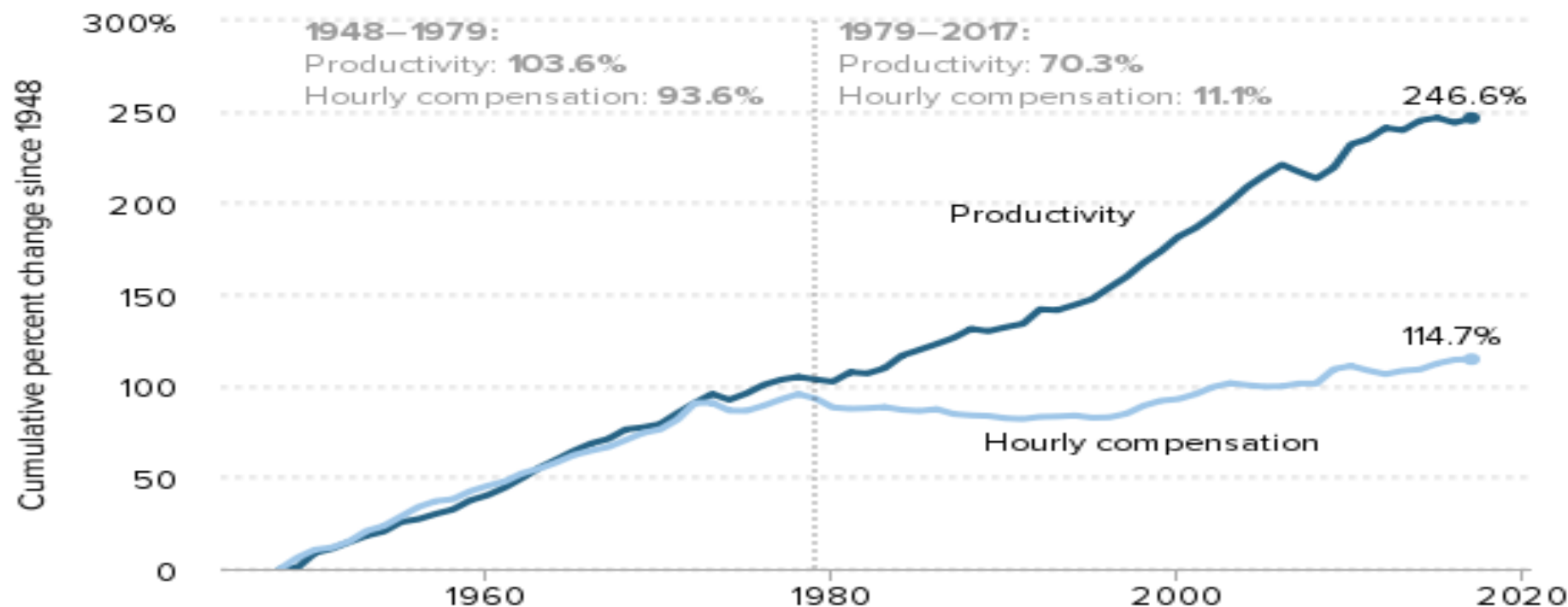


Notes: Data are for comprehensive income, including market income, social insurance benefits, and means-tested transfers. Average income for the bottom 90th was constructed using a simple weighted average of the bottom four quintiles and the 91–90th deciles.

Source: EPI analysis of data from the Congressional Budget Office (2018).

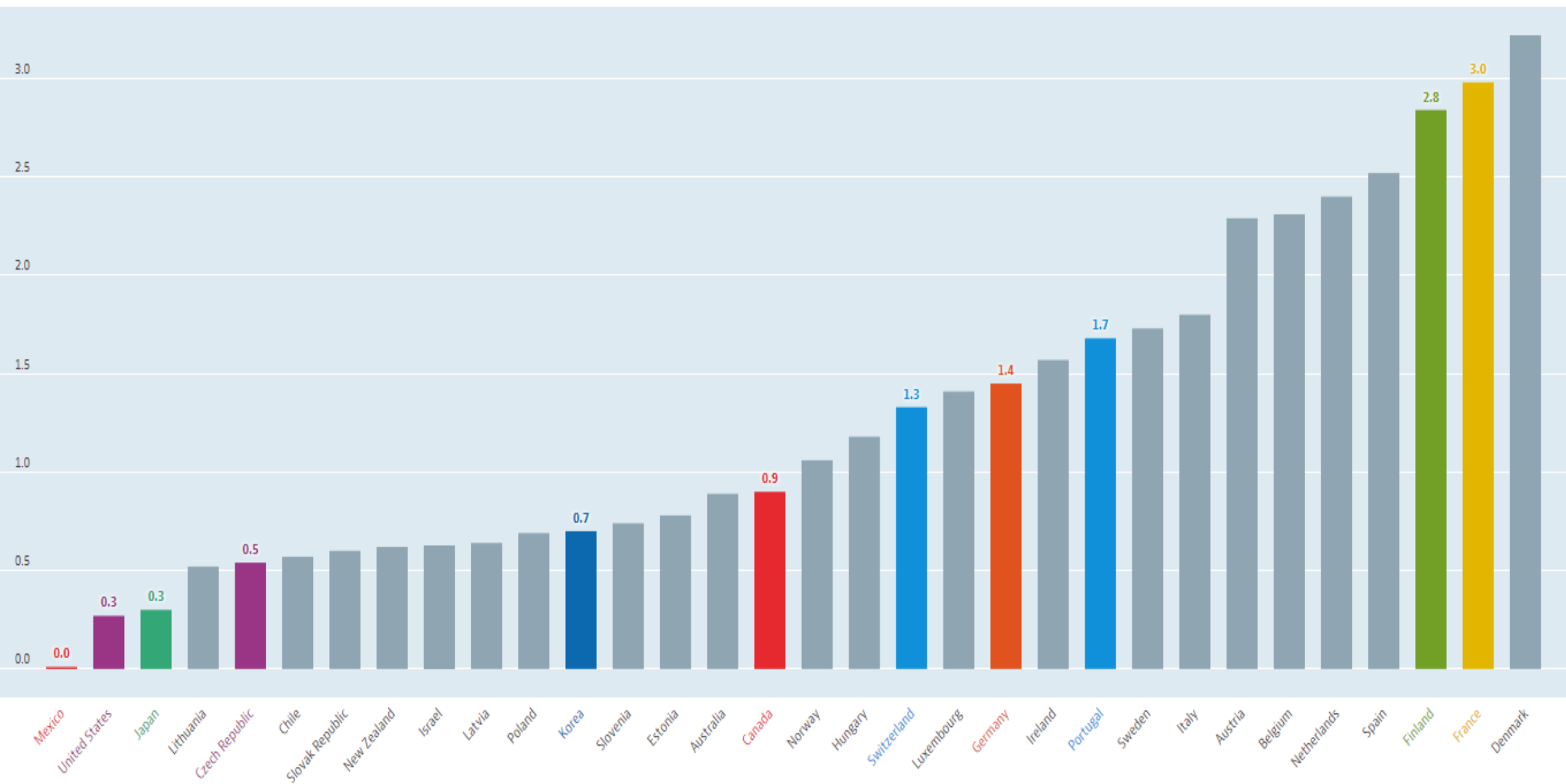
Productivity grew six times faster than hourly compensation between 1979 and 2017

Productivity growth and hourly compensation growth, 1948–2017



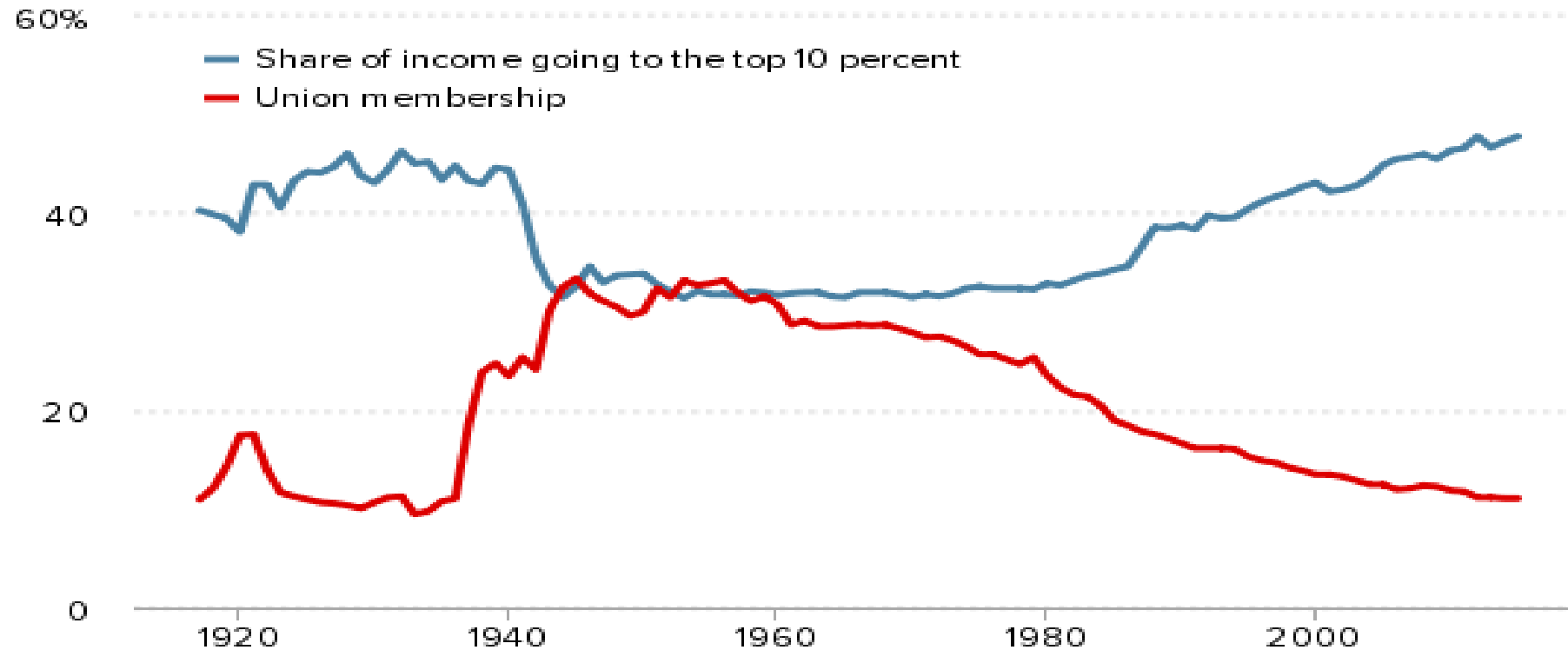
Notes: Data are for compensation (wages and benefits) of production/nonsupervisory workers in the private sector and net productivity of the total economy. “Net productivity” is the growth of output of goods and services less depreciation per hour worked.

Source: EPI analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis data. Updated from Figure A in Bivens et al. 2014.



As union membership declines, income inequality rises

Union membership and share of income going to the top 10%, 1917–2015



Sources: Data on union density follows the composite series found in Historical Statistics of the United States; updated to 2015 from unionstats.com. Income inequality (share of income to top 10 percent) data are from Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez, "Income Inequality in the United States, 1913–1998," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* vol. 118, no. 1 (2003) and updated data from the Top Income Database, updated June 2016.

A Better Path Forward

- ▶ Authoritative Research Concludes Mass Workforce Disruption
- ▶ Labor Mkt Spending Must Rise
- ▶ National Innovation Policy
- ▶ Workers **Must** Have a Seat at the Innovation Table
 - Through Unions, Engage Early in Innovation Process
 - Shape the Future of Jobs and Work
 - Negotiate for Share of Productivity & Financial Gains from Innovation
 - Tech Should Upskill, not De-skill Workers – Training Commitment Must be Real