



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact:** Laura Kendellen  
(O) 414.727.6364 x10

## **Inauguration Day Sparks a Call to Action for Wisconsin's Unemployed**

**Madison** – Today, 700 citizens including unemployed workers, ministers, and community leaders gathered at the State Capitol to bring attention to the tens of thousands of Wisconsinites who are out of work.

The Counter-Inauguration Day event was organized to tell Gov. Scott Walker and the new legislature that they will be held accountable to the working families of Wisconsin who have taken serious hits to their livelihood over the past several years.

“Today is not a celebration for the working families of Wisconsin,” said Mike Thomas, President of SEIU Wisconsin State Council. “We are here to warn the new administration that they will be held accountable to working families in the next four years. The only way we can pull ourselves out of this recession is by creating and maintaining family-supporting jobs.”

The Inauguration Day event began with a vigil outside Monona Terrace where Rev. Willie Brisco of MICAH led the group in prayer for Wisconsin's 44,000 unemployed workers and their families. The vigil ended with a call to action to fight for family-supporting jobs and to hold Gov. Walker accountable to his campaign pledge to create 250,000 jobs.

“This is only the beginning,” continued Thomas. “We will continue this fight for working families who need jobs, a living wage and health care. We will be watching Scott Walker's every move and will hold him accountable to the struggling people of Wisconsin.”

The day's events concluded with a demonstration outside the State Capitol during the inauguration ceremony. Participants held signs and handed out leaflets urging voters and political leaders to fight for good jobs in Wisconsin.

Gov. Walker's decision last month to turn down federal high speed rail money that would have created thousands of jobs in the state sparked the need for today's events. Community leaders are insisting that a transparent government prove that all major new expenditures under the banner of job creation actually produce family sustaining jobs.

Co-sponsors of the event include the Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Project of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH), League of Young Voters, Voces de la Frontera, and the Milwaukee Area Labor Council (AFL-CIO).

SEIU Wisconsin State Council coordinates the legislative and political agenda of Wisconsin's seven SEIU locals. SEIU is the nation's largest and fastest growing union with 2.1 million members nationwide and 17,000 members in Wisconsin. For more information visit [www.seiwi.org](http://www.seiwi.org).

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