



For Immediate Release

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Judge Rules to Block Collective Bargaining Bill

Madison – Today, Dane County Judge Maryann Sumi granted a temporary restraining order against Gov. Walker’s budget bill that strips public employees of their collective bargaining rights. The bill was signed into law last week and was set to go into effect on March 25th.

Sumi said that she did not receive any evidence effectively justifying the conference committee’s decision to pass the legislation with less than two hours’ notice. State law requires that a 24 hour notice be given for such meetings.

“We hope this legal action is a wake-up call to the legislators who have continuously broken and bent rules to pass laws that hurt workers and families,” said SEIU Wisconsin State Council President Mike Thomas. “Our government is of the people, by the people, for the people. We are hopeful that our legislators will learn from their mistakes and begin to repair the damage they have made by cutting the people out of government.”

Yesterday, Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne filed the lawsuit stating that legislators violated Wisconsin’s open meetings law when they rushed the revised piece of legislation through the joint conference committee last week.

In addition to ignoring the 24-hour notice law, Ozanne contended that the notice did not give the public enough information about what would be discussed in the meeting and furthermore that the space where the meeting was held was not large enough to accommodate a public presence.

“All workers deserve to be treated fairly,” concluded Thomas. “Protecting our public workers’ rights will inevitably protect all workers’ rights. We must continue to stand together and fight against those who put wealthy, corporate interests before working families.”

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.seiuwi.org.

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