



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

March 8, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Councilmember Max Anderson
 Councilmember Darryl Moore
 Councilmember Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Support Wisconsin State and Local Government Employees

RECOMMENDATION

Send a letter to Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker supporting the state's public employees right to collectively bargain.

BACKGROUND

Republican Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin has introduced a bill called "Budget Repair Bill." Gov. Walker claimed that the bill will save the state an estimated \$30 million a year, in part, by limiting collective-bargaining for public employees, along with givebacks in compensation and benefits.

This is a gross example of an unfunded mandate. Any proposal to require annual elections is an unnecessary expensive unfair labor practice. This mandate would be a gigantic example of **Waste, Fraud and Abuse**. This would be a waste of money, a fraud to tax payers for making them think they would save money, and an abuse of employees who have used established channels to choose who to represent them. There is already a National Labor Relations Board process for choosing to unionize or decertify.

Wisconsin's Legislative Fiscal Bureau, a non-partisan state agency which provides budget and economic data to the Wisconsin legislature, has indicated that Wisconsin may have a surplus by year's end. Moreover, earlier this year, Gov. Walker passed several tax cuts amounting to over \$100 million.

According to Bloomberg.com, public employees unions have compromised by agreeing to givebacks in compensation and benefits. However, Governor Walker has yet to accept the compromise.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Unknown.

CONTACT PERSON

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Councilmember Jesse Arreguin	510-981-7140

Attachments:

1. Letter

Dear Governor Walker

The Berkeley City Council would like to highly encourage you to strike from your proposed budget the elimination of the state's public employees right to collectively bargain.

We are particularly concerned that you claim your "Budget Repair Bill" will save the state an estimated \$30 million a year, in part, by limiting collective- bargaining for public employees.

Wisconsin's Legislative Fiscal Bureau (W.L.F.B), a non-partisan state agency, has indicated that Wisconsin may have a surplus by year's end. Given the W.L.F.B. data and the fact that earlier this year Wisconsin passed several tax cuts amounting to over \$100 million, we feel that you should drop the proposed elimination of the state's public employees right to collectively bargain from your "Budget Repair Bill."

In addition, we feel that this bill is a gross example of an unfunded mandate. Any proposal to require annual elections is an unnecessary expensive unfair labor practice. This mandate would be a gigantic example of **Waste, Fraud and Abuse**. This would be a waste of money, a fraud to tax payers for making them think they would save money, and an abuse of employees who have used established channels to choose who to represent them. There is already a National Labor Relations Board process for choosing to unionize or decertify.

In conclusion, we highly encourage you to compromise with public employees and cease your goal of eliminating collective- bargaining for public employees.

