



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DANE COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEMS TO GOP: DON'T TAKE PAST PAY OUT OF WORKERS' POCKETS**

*State workers who have been doing more with less on the job for 18 months should not have to return a portion of their past paychecks*

Madison – The Dane County Democratic Assembly Legislative delegation urged Gov.-elect Scott Walker and incoming Republican leadership not to overreach and play political games to hold-up state workers’ 2009 biennial budget contracts. Represented state employees have been working their jobs since July 1, 2009 without a contract, seeing zero pay increases, taking furlough days and experiencing hiring freezes and layoffs. Any current contract settlement would simply ratify what they have been paid to do all along.

The contracts currently under consideration by the unions were already budgeted for in the ’09 biennial budget, with money already held in the state compensation reserves. They contain no pay increases or other changes that would adversely impact the current state budget.

“Republicans are attempting to make something nefarious out of the workers’ contracts, but these workers have been dutifully performing their jobs every day for 18 months, without a contract, based on money that has already been budgeted,” Rep. Joe Parisi said. “Like most everyone in state government, they have been operating amid layoffs, hiring freezes and the same number of furlough days as other state employees. These contracts simply formalize the agreement.”

Recent budget projections continue to show no need for a budget repair bill. Money has already been set aside for this cost in the compensation reserves for state employees’ salaries and benefits as budgeted in the state budget that was signed in June 2009.

“This is a 24-month contract that expires in 7 months,” Rep. Sondy Pope-Roberts said. “What Gov.-elect Walker decides to do in the next contract is his prerogative. He’ll get the opportunity to oversee his own budget and contract negotiations soon enough after he is inaugurated.”

“If Gov.-elect Walker’s intent is to make state workers take pay cuts and other slashes in compensation for past work they have already completed -- that is simply unfair,” Rep. Terese Berceau said. “These workers have spent the past year-and-a-half doing more with less every day on the job. To go back and try to take money away from paychecks they’ve already earned would be unjust and demoralizing. That’s not a smart or fair way to do business.”