



# SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor Scott Walker Signs Assembly Bill 297 into Law**

**Madison** – Governor Scott Walker today signed Assembly Bill 297 into law and issued the following statement on the bill:

*After careful consideration of the arguments, both for and against this bill, I have decided to sign it into law. The bill creates a process by which the citizens in the communities affected have input and direct involvement in the undertaking of changing a school mascot.*

*I am very concerned about the principle of free speech enshrined in our U.S. Constitution. If the state bans speech that is offensive to some, where does it stop? A person or persons' right to speak does not end just because what they say or how they say it is offensive. Instead of trying to legislate free speech, a better alternative is to educate people about how certain phrases and symbols that are used as nicknames and mascots are offensive to many of our fellow citizens. I am willing to assist in that process.*

*With that in mind, I personally support moving away from nicknames or mascots that groups of our fellow citizens find seriously offensive, but I also believe it should be done with input and involvement at the local level.*

Assembly Bill 297 is 2013 Wisconsin Act 115.

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