

FAIR - AND - ADEQUATE

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March 2011



Top Ten Reasons to Kill the Budget Repair Bill

10. "This bill will shatter relationships among educators and school leaders, undermining current innovations around teacher compensation, evaluation, and improvement. It will have a chilling effect on teacher recruitment and sends a terrible message about the value of public service." [Tony Evers - Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction](#)

9. The bill allows "the Department of Administration to sell or contract for the operation of state heating, cooling and power plants without oversight from the legislature or the Public Service Commission." [The Oshkosh Northwestern](#)

8. Walker's budget repair bill, introduced last week, "would give the state Department of Health Services the authority to restrict eligibility, modify benefits and make other changes to Medicaid with less legislative review than required now. If the federal government didn't grant permission to make some of the changes, the state would drop at least 50,000 people from Medicaid next year." [Wisconsin State Journal](#)

7. "In our state, public employees represent a major portion of the purchasing power, tax base and involvement in the community. In some cities and towns, school districts are one of the major employers. By taking thousands of dollars from their pockets, it will be money that is not returned to circulation to buy your products and services." Gary Vance - [Onalaska-Holmen Courier Life: Opinions](#)

6. The Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau found that the labor provisions in the Budget Repair Bill which violate federal collective bargaining requirements could mean a loss of \$46.6 million annually in federal transit aids to Wisconsin. [Appleton Post Crescent](#)

5. The Budget Repair Bill limits the scope of collective bargaining "which would remove the ability of school boards to use the bargaining process in ways that enhance local control." [Janesville WI Board of Education letter to Governor Walker](#)

4. The Bill repeals the basic right of Home Health Care workers, Family Child Care workers, UW Hospital and Clinic employees as well as UW faculty and staff to bargain collectively at all. [Green Bay Press Gazette: Summary of Budget Repair Bill](#)

3. The Bill creates a "two-tier collective bargaining system that treats law enforcement officers differently than our brothers and sisters in other public sector unions. We are all dedicated public servants. We each have unique duties and responsibilities important to making our communities better places to live, work and raise our families." [Steve Lampada, President of the Kenosha Professional Police Association](#)



2. Provisions of Gov. Scott Walker's budget repair bill that restrict collective bargaining blunt local government's ability to solve their economic problems. [Oshkosh Deputy Mayor Jessica King and Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris](#)

1. "Labor unions helped build a strong middle class in Wisconsin. We will mount a strong defense against the 'Koch Brothers' playbook to kill unions." [Forbes business page online.](#)

Community officials want to keep local control of labor contracts



Hundreds of local officials from communities across Wisconsin are opposing Governor Walker's proposal to restrict collective bargaining with public sector employees. In an [open letter](#) (make that a link) to the Governor and Legislators, 415 elected and appointed leaders from 43 cities, 65 towns, 41 villages, 46 counties and 55 school districts urged state leaders to delete provisions on collective bargaining from the Budget Repair Bill.

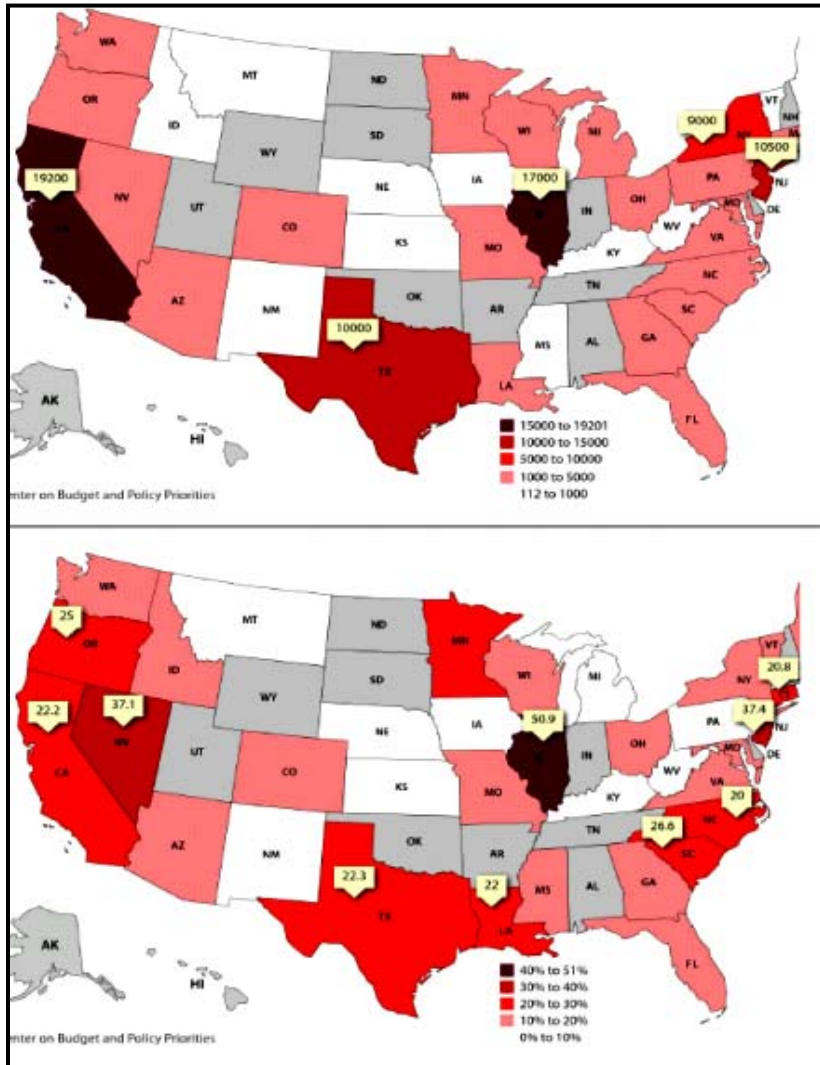
On February 23, 2011, local officials from Eau Claire, La Crosse, Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Middleton and Madison held a [press conference](#) (link) in the Capitol to spell out their objections to the Governor's plan. Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz said that local officials don't want the collective bargaining provisions of Walker's budget repair bill. "Allow us to make decisions locally about how we're going to deal with this issue," Cieslewicz said. "Destroying collective bargaining will not help us balance a single budget."

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41738959/ns/local_news-milwaukee_wi/

http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_1e8db926-3fd5-11e0-99ff-001cc4c002e0.html

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110223/NEWS02/302230009/Wisconsin-officials-organize-against-governor-s-bill>

Wall Street Journal: Wisconsin's situation better than most states



Wisconsin's financial problems are much less severe than those in most states, the *Wall Street Journal* found in its Feb. 25 survey of state fiscal problems.

The newspaper reported that Wisconsin's budget deficit is 12.8% of the 2011 total budget, which is lower than the deficits in at least twenty states.

When it comes to making up lost ground from recessionary hits to state revenue, Wisconsin has rebounded to 95% of pre-recession levels, compared with a national average of 89%. Only nine states have done better.

And Wisconsin's balance sheet looks relatively good, since our state pension and long-term debt liabilities were about 4.2% of state domestic product, well below the 7.3% national average. Only thirteen states had lower liabilities than Wisconsin as a proportion of their economy.

So why are state leaders trying to undermine Wisconsin's historical commitment to organized labor?

See the [Wall Street Journal article](#)

The top map shows states' absolute budget gaps, in millions of dollars for fiscal year 2012. The second map shows the percentage of states' budgets for fiscal year 2011 the gaps represent.

Quote of the Month

On October 3 of 2010, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott hotel in Arlington, Virginia, David Koch spoke at the Defending the American Dream Summit, a convention put on by Americans for Prosperity Foundation. The convention had brought an impressive roster of speakers from the right, from Senator Jim DeMint to Newt Gingrich to the *Wall Street Journal's* John Fund. There was little doubt as to Koch's importance to the group. "Right from the beginning," said AFP president Tim Phillips, "it was David's vision that launched our organization." Then Koch took the microphone.

"When we founded this organization five years ago," he said, "we envisioned a mass movement ..."

<http://washingtonindependent.com/62453/david-koch-at-defending-the-american-dream-summit>