



**SEIU Healthcare**<sup>®</sup>  
United for Quality Care

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Frontline State Workers Call Walker's Proposals Dangerous and Unfair** *SEIU HCWI Members React to Governor Walker's Plan*

(Milwaukee) – In response to Governor Walker's 'budget repair' bill and attack on working Wisconsin families, SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin members are mobilizing throughout the state. Healthcare workers are shocked at this blatant disregard of basic fairness, touting concern for the impact on the quality of care provided. Walker's proposals not only harm working families, but puts quality health care services for those most in need at risk.

These attacks are nothing short of politicking, working to eradicate fifty-years of labor peace. Walker's plan ignores the real cause of our revenue crisis —the global economic crisis caused by Wall Street and the failure of corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share. Nurses, homecare providers, and other state workers have already shouldered their burden to help the state deficit by agreeing to 16 furlough days, insurance premium increases and zero per cent pay increases over the current contract. Now Governor Walker is asking for more sacrifices by working families while he sits backs and fails to create a single idea around job creation.

"Public employees in Wisconsin have done their part to help the economy, and have shown nothing but good faith and a willingness to negotiate. Removing collective bargaining rights does nothing to decrease the state's deficit, this is a blatant power grab by Governor Walker to suppress the voices of working families in Wisconsin," said Dian Palmer, president of SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin.

### **SEIU HCWI MEMBER REACTIONS TO GOVERNOR WALKER'S PLAN**

"I chose to work in the public sector because I am a veteran and wanted to give back to my community. Cuts in public service have severely impacted the services we can provide. We lost 57 nurses last year alone; our office has the highest caseload in the state, with 106 patients per RN. Further reductions will really hurt the care we can provide. As a registered Republican, I'm shocked Governor Walker refuses to meet with the workers his bill is impacting."

- Sandra Ives, Veterans Administration

"As a nurse in a state mental facility, I'm fearful of the impacts of Walker's proposal. We are already short-staffed and overworked and physical risks in our jobs daily, eliminating our collective bargaining rights will handicap our ability to ensure our safety."

- Michael Kostopoulos, Winnebago Mental Health

"I have been a state employee since 1976, I sacrificed lower wages for public service due to the dire need for nurses at UW Hospital. Collective bargaining has helped ensure we all receive fair shift schedules, I'm afraid that removing that right will make it impossible for my family."

- Ann Louise Tetreault, UW Hospital

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