



FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY

Where Spiritual Curiosity and Conscience Connect

February 22, 2011

Office of Governor Scott Walker
115 East Capitol
Madison WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

As Unitarian Universalists we strive to live out the principles that bind us together. Our faith tradition affirms the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process. To live this principle we take the democratic process seriously and expect that the leaders of our government, founded on democracy, would do so as well.

We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. This includes every worker and their right to seek a fair compensation package for themselves and their families. This includes every child who deserves a quality, safe learning environment with teachers that are respected, valued, and appreciated. This includes every person in the state of Wisconsin regardless of age, ability or income level.

We believe in justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. To live this principle means that we support a humane and compassionate legislative process which allows for multiple voices to be heard. We would hope that you join with us in the promotion of justice for all who live in the state of Wisconsin.

Though we hold the greatest respect for the office of the Governor of Wisconsin, we are troubled by your disregard for fundamental democratic principles. The state workers of our great state have, by law, the rights of collective bargaining, rights established over decades of careful legislation and negotiation. The idea that these rights could be eliminated by a single bill without adequate public hearing is a dangerous violation of the principles of democracy.

We understand and support the need for a balanced budget. At the same time we question whether this is the way to achieve that balance. The view that your bill is the only way to solve this budget deficit is shortsighted at best. We urge you to reconsider negotiations with those who represent Wisconsin workers and those concerned for the rights of all Wisconsin citizens and not fall into the trap of thinking that your way is the only way out of this situation.

We ask you to open a peaceful dialogue and discussion. We are deeply concerned about the immediate and long term effects of the proposed legislation upon the families and individuals in our community and do not believe that these effects have been adequately anticipated.

We urge you, Governor Walker, to proceed with due care, caution and compassion and in ways that honor the worth of every person in our state and also the great democratic tradition of Wisconsin.

With hope for a brighter future,

Rev. Kelly Crocker and Rev. Karen Gustafson