

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor, State of Wisconsin
115 East Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Governor Walker,

Let me begin by urging you to reconsider the Repair Bill that in my opinion will greatly marginalize the great public school system that you acknowledged we have in the State of Wisconsin in your remarks at the School Board Convention Friday, January 21st.

Your responsibility and burden is a great one. People understand that the 3 billion dollar deficit facing us is a great challenge for you and the legislature to address in these difficult economic times. Thoughtful decisions, rather than haste action without a good public hearing that extends beyond one day I believe is in order given what is at stake per the welfare of children, public employees, and citizens of this state.

While I may disagree with many of your positions, I respect your office, and I certainly want to see you succeed in your leadership. I appeal to you not only as public servant but as a father, to slow this process down and consider more points of view. You may be surprised at the creativeness that may result in addressing this budget crisis, not to mention the respect I believe you can regain by regrouping and asking for more time to listen and study better alternatives.

By now you have seen the reaction state-wide. The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB), the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA), and the Wisconsin Education Association—*the three W's* as they are known per educational association stakeholders. All agree that the provisions in the budget repair bill that prohibit collective bargaining over everything but wages go far beyond helping school districts control costs.

In closing, I plead with you to take some more time and resist the temptation of zealous individuals or groups to “ram this bad legislation through.” You are the Governor, the most powerful influence in the state per impacting public policy...Please reconsider the Repair Bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. James Fitzpatrick
Superintendent
School District of Fort Atkinson

Copies: Representative Andy Jorgenson
Senator Scott Fitzgerald

