

Statement of Support for Wisconsin Public Workers

St. Charles Community College Faculty Association

Cottleville, Missouri

March 11, 2011

Whereas, the Governor of Wisconsin has engaged in an intensely divisive political campaign rather than in constructive governance and attacked the fundamental rights of public employee unions to bargain collectively, rights which are a half-century old;

Whereas the anti-collective bargaining bill, which was passed March 9, 2011, through a parliamentary maneuver with only Republican support despite tremendous grassroots protest, does not restore fiscal balance but rather punishes workers and invites abuse;

Whereas, the unions in Wisconsin had accepted concessions in light of the budget realities, showing members' support to "share the sacrifice" at the same time that the Governor of Wisconsin has spearheaded deficit-expanding tax breaks for corporate interests;

Whereas, the specifications of pension plans in Wisconsin and other states have frequently been represented inadequately in media reports, usually through hasty generalizations about teachers and other public employees milking retirement monies from the taxpayers;

Whereas, to improve education in Wisconsin and elsewhere we need to attract qualified and capable people to the profession and reducing benefits for teachers by breaking their unions does not accomplish that;

Be it resolved by the SCC Faculty Association, on this day of March 11, 2011:

That, we stand in solidarity with the 300,000 state and local workers in Wisconsin, including the 98,000 members of the Wisconsin Education Association Council;

That we condemn, in the strongest terms, the attack by the Governor of Wisconsin on the basic right of workers to organize and bargain collectively and the means by which the Republican-led legislature passed the legislation and thereby spurned the voices of the many tens of thousands of demonstrators for workers rights in the very halls of power in Madison;

That we urge media outlets in Missouri to report in fair and comprehensive terms that teachers pay into their own retirement plans;

That a copy of this resolution be sent forthwith to our education colleagues in the state of Wisconsin expressing our continued strong support and solidarity.

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