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## **Radical proposal takes away worker rights**

Based on initial press reports, a policy-laden proposal about to be rushed through the Legislature in the guise of a budget repair bill would radically reshape relations between public service workers and their employers. The proposal would strip rights from workers to negotiate a fair contract, fair treatment or even workplace safety.

“Some politicians want the government to essentially take away the right of working people to have unions. But even if you don’t like unions, surely we all can agree that anti-freedom attacks that deny public employees the right negotiate a fair contract – the same freedom guaranteed by law to just about every other Wisconsin resident – are outrageous and wrong,” said Rich Abelson, executive director of AFSCME Council 48.

“States across the country have budget challenges because of a national economic crisis, not because Wisconsin’s public employees earn modest wages. Taking away rights from caregivers, correctional officers and snowplow drivers means undercutting our state’s fragile economic recovery – and it puts the health, safety and well being of our communities at even greater risk,” said Rick Badger, executive director of AFSCME Council 40.

“Contrary to the flawed reasoning behind this proposal, public employees in Wisconsin earn less than their counterparts in the private sector. This job-killing attack on public workers has nothing to do with bringing good jobs back to Wisconsin,” said Marty Beil, executive director of the Wisconsin State Employees Union, AFSCME Council 24.

*AFSCME Council 40 represents more than 33,000 public service and health care workers in 71 Wisconsin Counties. Council 24 represents more than 22,000 state employees. Council 48 represents more than 10,000 public service employees in Milwaukee County.*