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Governor’s “Solution” to State Hiring Crisis Will Only Make it Worse

Undermining rules that shield state employment decisions from political interference would be another step backwards for Wisconsin, which already is reeling from the anti-worker policies of the Walker administration.

“Proposals to ‘reform’ the state’s civil service system should set off alarm bells from Kenosha to Superior. This is another attack on Wisconsin’s tradition of clean government, a tradition this administration has already placed on life support,” said Rick Badger, executive director of AFSCME Council 32.

“These rules exist to ensure state employment decisions are based on what you know, not who you know. Any changes coming from a governor who is clearly obsessed with silencing workers, punishing foes and concentrating his own political power should be viewed with alarm,” Badger said

“Considering the anti-worker track record of this governor, it’s ironic to hear him suddenly talk about attracting the best and brightest to state service. He has spent over four years pummeling state workers to a point where the state now can’t fill vacancies. He’s created a crisis in the corrections department. Does he think opening the doors to political cronies is somehow going to solve the crisis?” Badger asked.

“If they want to attract the best and brightest, they should start listening to the employees they still have and start treating them with the respect they deserve. Silencing their voices and slashing their take home pay has consequences that won’t get fixed by undermining civil service protections,” Badger said.

With more than 1.6 million members nationwide, AFSCME was born in Wisconsin during the Great Depression to fight an attack on civil service protections. “What was clear then is clear today. Going back to cronyism and patronage is simply not the Wisconsin way.” Badger said.

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