



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN
EDUCATION FUND**

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To: All members of the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly

From: Andrea Kaminski, on behalf of League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund

Re: Budget repair bill needs ample opportunity for public input

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is shocked by the aggressive timeline for the consideration and passage of the proposed budget adjustment bill. This is legislation that would strip away rights that people have had for 50 years. At the very least it deserves a true public hearing - or several of them - with plenty of public notice and enough time for people to react before the Legislature takes a vote.

Proponents of this Special Session bill say that without it, the only option is to lay off thousands of workers and drastically cut programs. If that is true, then they should have to prove it as the bill makes its way through a reasonable legislative process. However, we know that the bill takes into consideration only one side of the budget equation. No private business would rely on spending cuts alone to reduce a deficit, and neither should state government. The League supports fiscal policy that provides for adequate and flexible funding of government through an equitable, progressive tax system. Think revenue - not just spending cuts that will hurt Wisconsin residents whether or not they are government employees!

What Governor Walker is trying to do with this bill is easy compared to taking the time to develop a responsible budget with ample opportunity for public input. Legislators should reject this disastrous bill and seek a responsible solution for Wisconsin's economy.