

Important info to share with friends and family

Economic impact of current budget repair bill proposals

Researchers for the Institute for Wisconsin's Future found that "cutting household income for state, local and school district public-sector families, as proposed by Gov. Scott Walker and other political leaders, will cost the state \$1 billion in reduced economic activity. Proposed cut in public worker compensation would result in the loss of 9,000 private sector jobs and \$600 million a year in economic production in the private sector. It would eliminate \$42 million in property taxes or shift them to other taxpayers and increase the state unemployment rate. Every county in the state would suffer with reduced economic activity and less local revenue."

Read the whole report here:

http://www.wisconsinsfuture.org/publications_pdfs/tax/ECONOMIC_IMPACT2_2011.pdf

Teachers' unions promote greater student achievement

Students in states where there are strong teachers' unions have higher rates of achievement on the ACT and the SAT than students in states with weak or no unions, according to a study published in the *Harvard Educational Review* (2000). Read Harvard's press release here:

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/features/unions02012001.html>

How do strong unions help boost achievement? Researchers found that strong teachers' unions push for better working conditions that result in better learning conditions; there is lower turnover among unionized teachers; union contracts provide for better professional development.

Researchers for the Institute for Wisconsin's Future also found students in states with strong unions have higher achievement on standardized tests than those in states without strong unions.

Read the whole report here:

http://www.wisconsinsfuture.org/publications_pdfs/education/unions.pdf

The IWF researchers concluded that "public education faces serious problems but teachers organizing to secure decent wages and working conditions is not one of them. Data from this study demonstrates that 'breaking the unions' will hurt, not help students' performance."