Message to Express Solidarity with US Public Employees

Union of Education Norway, representing more than 150,000 teachers and early childhood educators, from early childhood education to university level expresses our concern over Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker’s budget bill to strip 175,000 state employees, including teachers, of collective bargaining rights.

Union of Education Norway supports our colleagues in the United States, NEA and AFT, in their vigorous campaign to fight this regressive legislation in Wisconsin and in Ohio, Idaho, Indiana and elsewhere.

The proposal to restrict bargaining rights for teacher unions and eliminate dues check-off is an opportunistic frontal attack on workers’ rights. The new legislation would also require workers to cover more of their health care and pension plans, and would request unions to conduct costly annual votes to maintain certification.

This short-sighted Bill would not only damage the livelihoods and job security of thousands of workers and their families but would also undermine the quality and cohesion of public services.

Education unions worldwide advocate for strong, independent and representatives teacher unions building the future through quality education, the theme of EI’s 6th World Congress. Strong education unions believe in building a collaborative relationship with education stakeholders to help craft innovative education policies and reforms improving student achievement.

Please inform your members in Wisconsin about our concern in this matter and our support to all of them in their struggle for high quality education for all, for their trade union rights and against this legislation.

Yours sincerely,
Union of Education Norway

Mimi Bjerkstrand
President

Cathrin Skaare
General Secretary