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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Labor, Elections and Urban
Affairs (SC-LEUA)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
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INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

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(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



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Robert McLinn, President
Martin Beil, Executive Director

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs
From: Marty Beil, Executive Director, Wisconsin State Employees Union
Date: February, 26th, 2008
Re: Senate Bill 427

WSEU opposes the unnecessary changes being made to state law under Senate Bill 427. According to the LRB analysis of SB 427, the bill makes changes to the State Employees Labor Relations Act that would allow probation, parole and extended supervision supervisors in the Department of Corrections to gain access to the collective bargaining process. This analysis is misleading, as these supervisors may currently organize and negotiate under state statute 111.825(5), which reads in part;

Although supervisors are not considered employees for purposes of this subchapter, the commission may consider a petition for a statewide collective bargaining unit of professional supervisors or a statewide unit of nonprofessional supervisors in the classified service, but the representative of supervisors may not be affiliated with any labor organization representing employees.

This fact is reiterated upon close reading of the fiscal note that accompanies SB 427. In the second paragraph under the 'Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate' section on page 4;

*Currently, under the State Employment Labor Relations Act (SELRA), no state supervisors have yet been organized **under the existing provisions allowing such** (see s. 111.825 (5), Wis. Stats.).*

SB 427 breaks up a bargaining unit as it exists under current state law. Under SB 427 classified supervisors within DOC would have their own bargaining unit. Under current law those supervisors, should they organize, would be in a unit that contained their peers across various state agencies.



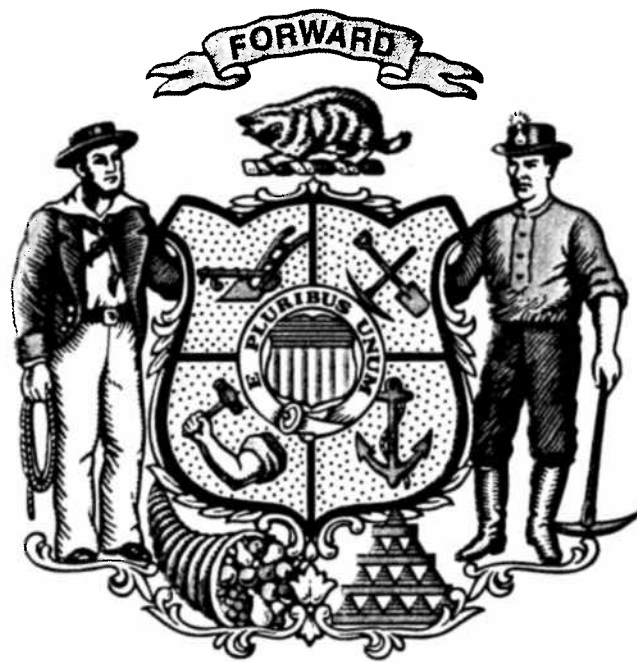
According to Chapter 111.825 Collective Bargain Units (1);

It is the legislative intent that in order to foster meaningful collective bargaining, units must be structured in such a way as to avoid excessive fragmentation whenever possible.

SB 427 takes us down the path of excessive fragmentation, justifying the creation for literally hundreds of collective bargaining units in state government.

WSEU strongly supports the rights of all workers to organize. In this case however, that right already exists. State statutes have been carefully crafted to take into account various conflicts of interests that may arise when supervisors are allowed to organize, as well as maintain cohesive bargaining units with which the state must negotiate.

Thank you for your consideration. I apologize that other conflicts prevent me from being available to testify before the committee today. Please contact me at 608-836-0024 if you have any questions or concerns you would like me to answer.



LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban Affairs
Testimony of Senator Lena C Taylor
SB 427 – Corrections Supervisors Organizing Act
February 27, 2008

Chairman Coggs and Honorable Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the Corrections Supervisors Organizers Act – SB 427. As the chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, and Housing and traveling this state on the State of the Justice System tour, I have seen firsthand the impact that probation/parole officers have on those persons reintegrating into society. Wisconsin's Division of Community Corrections in DOC is the largest bureau of the agency directly affecting the lives of reintegrating persons.

Currently, agents in Community Corrections are unionized and are offered collective bargaining as represented employees. Their supervisors, whom this bill addresses, are not. Agents have written into their contracts things like: pay scales, vacation standards, and even caseload limits. Supervisors do not. In "normal" situations, this would be the expected norm of the workplace. However, the Division of Community Corrections and the work they do is not the expected workplace.

Correction supervisors are handling cases, like agents, and supervising the work of the agents. But they are not policy making supervisors in management positions in the division. Unfortunately, I have heard directly from supervisors, that because they are on the ground supervisors, the department will push its excess caseload onto the workload of supervisors. This unfortunate management practice is, from my view, creating an overburdened supervisory staff that is not able to give the due attention to agents work.

The Corrections Supervisor Organizing Act – SB 427 is the empowering tool that will allows these supervisors to organize and enter into collective bargaining. There are approximately 120 Corrections supervisors in the state. Ultimately, the staff workloads and agent/supervisor personal mentality hinder the success of those reintegrating into society to a much greater level than we expect. The state must engage in discussion about changing our practices to help reintegration in our state.

I urge you to support the Corrections Supervisor Organizing Act – SB 427.

Thank you.