



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement from Rep. Bowen on Gov. Walker's Drug-Testing Proposal

MILWAUKEE – Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee) issued a statement today in response to Gov. Walker's proposal to require citizens to submit to drug-testing in order to receive public benefits:

“I'm deeply concerned about the governor's proposal. The people who need unemployment benefits such as BadgerCare or Food Share aren't a bunch of hardened drug addicts looking to game the system. They're people who've fallen on hard times and need some help to get back up on their feet. Drug testing won't help with that. Not only will it add another hoop for people to jump through when trying to navigate assistance, but it will deepen the stigma attached to needing help. Losing the job you need to feed your family feels bad enough without the Governor of your state treating you like a drug addict when you come to him for help.

My biggest concern with this proposal, however, is what it reveals about how Gov. Walker sees the jobs crisis in Wisconsin. If this is the best solutions he's offering, it must be because he thinks that if Wisconsinites can't find a job they're drug addicted. Wisconsin is last in the Midwest in job creation over the last three years. The reason people can't find jobs is that there aren't enough to go around in this lagging economy. If Gov. Walker wants to help people find jobs, his focus should be building a stronger economy with rising wages, not demonizing struggling workers.”
