

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



COMMUNITY ALERT

Celebrate Labor Fest!

2014 Theme: Coalition of Justice

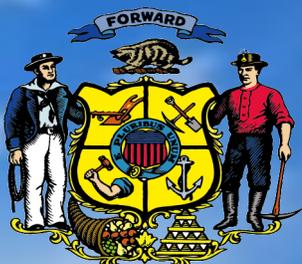
Monday, September 1st
Henry Maier Festival Park
Noon-5 p.m.
Admission is free!

For more information:
milwaukeeelabor.org
(414) 771-7070

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the legislative update. I hope you find the information provided here useful.

As Always, I'm Here to Serve!



USING EVIDENCE FOR BEST PRACTICES

Though policymakers work hard to make smart and strategic budget decisions, we are often limited by lack of data about the costs and benefits of different programs and how they compare. The solution, then, is to bring systematic evidence into the budget and policy making process. This is exactly what the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative does. In adopting the program, we would be able to systematically analyze all of the available research to identify which programs work best, allowing us to assess the investment risk of all budget decisions, as well as weigh and rank the projected costs and benefits. The program would assist the state by providing software, training staff in the approach, and helping policymakers to interpret results. I have been advocating for the use of evidence based practices in order to inform our decision related to corrections, early education, and child welfare, and am excited to have the opportunity here in Wisconsin to do so! Stay tuned for more!



GOP FAILING WISCONSIN FAMILIES



Source: www.conservativeintel.com

For an economy to be successful, it needs to work for all of its citizens. And unfortunately, during Governor Walker's tenure, the opposite has been true. A report release Thursday by the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau revealed our state collected \$281 million dollars less than we had planned. This means that the people lack financial resources to support the economy by making purchases, opening businesses, or just living decent lives. This is a direct result of extreme policies enacted by Governor Walker and Republican legislators that prevented Wisconsinites from receiving healthcare and congested our correctional institutions. Instead of feeding our economy by helping ordinary citizens, Republican leaders rewarded big business for cutting corners and hurting the rest of us. These one-sided policies not only prevent our state from fulfilling its creed — FORWARD, but also nibble away State's fiscal potential for a better planning for the future.



Incarceration, Opportunity and the Future of Milwaukee

Join New York Times bestselling author and law professor Michelle Alexander for her perspective on the various historical and cultural currents that shape the criminal justice system. It will be a great opportunity to have a dialogue, build coalitions and creating lasting change!

**Friday, September 26
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**MATC, Cooley Auditorium
1015 North Sixth Street**

RSVP: <http://tinyurl.com/Sept26RSVP>

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CELEBRATING LABOR DAY



This Monday is the national celebration of Labor Day, a day on which we pay tribute to the social and economic achievements of American workers and the immeasurable contributions they have brought to our country. Labor Day presents a time to show appreciation of the strides accomplished by organized laborers and the American labor movement, such as reasonable hours, safer working conditions, and retirement benefits. While I could not be more proud of the achievements Wisconsinites have brought to our state over the past three years, it pains me to imagine the social and economic benefits we are missing out on because of Governor Walker's 2011 elimination of collective bargaining for public sector employees. However, I am confident that together, we can not only reverse backwards legislation, but will also be able to pass laws that compensate workers for the benefits they bring to Wisconsin.

ALTERNATIVES TO MANDATORY MINIMUMS

In light of increased violence in Milwaukee, it is impossible to not consider ways in which we can prevent the occurrence of further tragedy. However, one reform that should not be considered is Mandatory Minimums. Evidence has repeatedly shown that imposing these laws is an ineffective, discriminatory and costly practice that will pose little if any benefit. These laws targets the lowest and most easily replaced criminals. Claims that these deter future crime are also contradicted by evidence showing that the notion of arrest, prosecution, and conviction acts as the deterrent in and of itself, not the length of the sentence. More effective ways to target violence related to drugs, for example, include treatment and education, which RAND has shown to have "an enormous advantage over enforcement in reducing the economic value of the cocaine market." We also can focus on using our taxpayer dollars to support more effective and proven methods of improving police training and investing in prisoner rehabilitation to prevent recidivism.

Wise Words of the Week!

Contact Us!

**We Enjoy
Hearing
From You!**



"A conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who, however, has never learned to walk forward."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt