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December 1, 2011

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Walker Reaches New Low *Blocks Constitutional Rights of State Employees and Disabled Veterans*

In the face of snowballing support for the recall movement against Gov. Scott Walker and his loyal lieutenant Rebecca Kleefisch, the Walker administration is going to extraordinary lengths to block the collection of signatures.

The administration is even denying war heroes residing at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King the opportunity to sign petitions.

The administration has issued an unconstitutional edict imposing a blanket ban on employees gathering signatures anywhere on state property, including parking lots, even while off duty or on a break. The ban is so broad it would prohibit off-duty state workers from standing on the state Capitol grounds and holding signs asking fellow citizens to sign recall petitions.

The Wisconsin State Employees Union, AFSCME Council 24, on Wednesday challenged this infringement of constitutionally protected rights in a letter to Department of Administration Secretary Michael Huebsch.

The letter cites a Supreme Court ruling that holds “the solicitation of signatures for a petition involves protected speech... at the core of our electoral process and the First Amendment freedoms.”

“Scott Walker is so scared of the voice of the people that he will stop at nothing in his craven attempt to silence that voice,” said Marty Beil, WSEU executive director.

“Tragically, in trying to stamp out the wildfire his radical power grabs ignited in our state, he is stomping on the rights of people who have put their lives on the line to fight for those rights,” Beil said.

Under Walker’s broad brush prohibition, many bed-ridden residents at King have no way to sign petitions because state employees may be their only contact with the outside world.

“It’s pathetic the lengths this administration will go to in its futile attempts to cling to power. They’ve made their lack of compassion and decency abundantly clear in this past year, but even for them this is a new low,” Beil said.