



Taxpayers United of America

407 S. Dearborn Street • Suite 1170 • Chicago, IL 60605-1150
• (312) 427-5128 • Web: www.taxpayersunited.org • Email: info@taxpayersunited.org

July 10, 2013

Honorable Scott Walker
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702
govgeneral@wisconsin.gov

Re: Release of Government Employee Pension Information

Dear Governor Walker,

I would first like to thank you for your focus on jobs and responsible spending of taxpayer funds as well as the positive steps you have courageously taken on collective bargaining.

In the past year, we of Taxpayers United of America have travelled to 19 states to research and analyze government employee pensions. As you know so well, government pensions are the number one budgetary problem across the country. We have often found that government pensions are higher than private sector salaries! In response to our Freedom of Information Act requests, we have generally received the information requested, including the “Top 100” government salaries and the “Top 100” government pensions from each government entity petitioned.

Some states readily recognize individual pension payouts as public information, since they are paid for with taxpayer dollars. They openly make them available for public view. Even in Illinois, arguably the most corrupt state in the country, individual pension payments are available. Sadly, this is not the case in Wisconsin.

Our research and release of individual pension payments has accomplished so much. This kind of report provides numbers to which average taxpayers can relate. When they see the outrageous pension payments made to people they know in their own community for not working, they clearly understand the problem with the defined benefit system and are open to reform.

Keeping these lavish payments hidden from taxpayer review hides many of the abuses of the government pension systems and the taxpayer trust.

Complete reform of the transparency of the Wisconsin government pension system will take the same political courage you exercised in reeling in collective bargaining. As we did then, we will support you in this important reform that will make Wisconsin an even stronger state than it already is.



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I am calling on your leadership to make transparency a priority in order to better serve your constituents. Please contact me if I can be of assistance in driving this change.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Tobin'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Tobin

President