



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Jennifer Shilling
95TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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IT'S TIME TO FACE THE FACTS, GOV. WALKER'S NUMBER DON'T ADD UP

MADISON – Again today on NBC's Meet the Press show Governor Walker falsely claimed that his efforts to take away workers' collective bargaining rights would save local communities over \$1.44 billion. In response, Rep. Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse), a member of the Joint Committee on Finance, released the following statement:

“While Governor Scott Walker and the Republican leadership continue to claim that repealing collective bargaining rights will save local municipalities money, the facts don't even come close to backing up their claims. From the data provided by Walker's own budget department, his numbers reflect how out of touch he is with reality.

“This ridiculous claim that taking away worker rights will help to provide relief to local communities is absurd. The truth is, local school districts and municipalities that have been requiring employees to pay for health and pension benefit costs are going to be hit hard by Walker's cuts. Walker claims municipalities will be able to force employees to pay 12% of their health insurance premiums, but many cities already require employees to pay 20, 30, or even 40 percent of their health insurance premiums.

“The inconsistencies with Walker's math continue to mislead the public and distract from the reality of our state's financial situation. At some point, Governor Walker will need to face the truth and his numbers are going to need to add up. These ridiculous claims do nothing but erode the public's trust in Walker's administration and add to the confusion and uncertainty that our local governments are already experiencing.”

LFB Director Bob Lang has stated that the DOA numbers are so lacking in details that his agency is not able to provide any information on how they could have arrived at these numbers. The DOA estimates seem to assume that every local school district, municipality, and county employee currently pays nothing toward their health and pension benefits but would now be required to pay 5.8% toward their pension and 12% of their health insurance premiums. The assumptions made by the DOA are below.





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These amounts are annual. Biennial amounts would double the table.

(amounts in \$millions)	School Districts	Municipalities	Counties	Technical Colleges	Special Districts	Totals
Projected Compensation Savings						
WRS Contributions (at 5.8%)	283.7	55.6	37.1	33.8	9.0	419.2
Health Insurance Contributions (at 4.2%)***	205.2	42.6	26.8	24.4	6.5	305.5
<i>Total Contribution Savings**</i>	488.9	98.3	63.9	58.2	15.5	724.7

** Savings estimates for counties and municipalities adjust for excluding police officers and fire fighters as well as assumptions regarding utility and other municipal enterprise employees. Counties' realizable savings are adjusted for program areas not typically funded by Shared Revenues or their equivalents. Actual amounts may vary.

*** 4.2% of salary assumption is based on 12% of premiums plus accompanying plan design changes that are worth an equivalent of 4.2% of salary.

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