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LABOR DAY A CHANCE TO CELEBRATE WORKERS

The Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of summer and provides an opportunity to spend time with friends and family at cookouts, kick off the football season, and enjoy a much-deserved day off from work.

Originating in 1894, Labor Day is a time to honor the incredible contributions the labor movement has made to American society and the American worker's standard of living. The movement's tireless efforts and extraordinary sacrifices improved conditions for all working-class citizens of the United States. Ordinary men and women struggled mightily for many of the workplace rights that we now take for granted. Many of these Americans gave their lives to the movement, allowing us to enjoy these rights today.

For more than a decade in Wisconsin, many of the accomplishments of these brave men and women all those years ago have been eroded. In our state and across the country, we are still seeing examples of how the labor of Americans is taken for granted, such as attempts to end or lower unemployment assistance to force workers back to lower wage jobs. These attacks serve as a reminder that, while much of the groundwork for the labor movement was laid many years ago, we must continue to fight for working-class American families.

The labor movement was founded on the principle of unity among working people. It is my hope that this Labor Day can serve as an opportunity for Wisconsin citizens to consider past sacrifices, unite against attempts to divide working people, and strive to uphold the longstanding Wisconsin values of hard work, fair play, cooperation, and respect.

This upcoming Labor Day holiday, while you are enjoying the day, remember to take a minute to reflect on what it took to get that day off. Have a safe and happy Labor Day!

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