

# Union and Immigrant Supporters Stand United Against Walker's Attacks

By Jerry Grzeca and John Sesini  
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Wisconsin governor Scott Walker's approach to budget cuts has produced an outpouring of anger and has dominated media outlets for months. Walker justified his controversial stripping of collective bargaining rights as the key to improving our state's economy. He says that Wisconsin is in fiscal trouble, so now he has put the burden on unions to make up for the shortfalls. His financial budget cuts have mobilized thousands to protest in the streets. Wisconsin immigrants also stand united to fight against Walker and his supporters and stand up for immigrants' rights and the working class.

On May 1, hundreds of thousands of individuals rallied in over 100 cities across the nation to call for national immigration reform and to support all workers' rights. In Wisconsin, an unprecedented number of protestors took part in the Wisconsin Solidarity March and Rally for Immigrant & Worker Rights. Both immigrants and Wisconsin resident workers joined forces to show that they will not stand for attacks against the working class, immigrant rights, and dramatic cuts to public education and health care.

This May Day march was a direct reaction to the budget battle in Madison. Labor and immigrant rights communities let their collective voices be heard as they joined forces to demand an end to Arizona-style legislation in Wisconsin, protection of in-state tuition for immigrant

students and collective bargaining rights for unions. They let Walker know that working people, no matter where they were born, gave their blood, sweat and tears to this country and will not allow it to be destroyed. Enough is enough.

National union leader Richard Trumka spoke to Milwaukee protestors, calling for them to stand together: "Now your governor, Scott Walker," he said, "has declared war on Wisconsin's workers. And just like you did five years ago on May 1---and have been doing every May Day since---Wisconsin's workers have joined together in peaceful protests to say, "No!" "May Day is our day to stand together shoulder to shoulder for immigrant and worker rights."

The crowd marched 2.5 miles across Milwaukee chanting, "this is what democracy looks like," "sí, se puede," "Walker eschuca estamos en la lucha" and "Wisconsin no es Arizona."

Applause rang through the crowd as Trumka left supporters with his final thoughts: "Let it ring in the time when no one is left in the shadows- when the circumstances of your birth do not determine your fate, when the rights and the justice that those who came before us lived and died for are shared by all of us. Side by side, shoulder-to-shoulder, united---We are one!"

For more information about how Walker's budget will impact immigration reform or for information on any other immigration issues or concerns, please contact Grzeca Law Group at (414) 342-3000 or visit our website at [www.grzecalaw.com](http://www.grzecalaw.com).

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