



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Wisconsin American Legion’s Support of Family Sustaining Wages for Veterans Applauded by the Wisconsin Building Trades

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(Madison, Wis.) – Last week, the Wisconsin American Legion issued a press release making it clear that Governor Walker’s budget proposal to repeal Wisconsin’s prevailing wage laws will negatively impact Veterans. The Building Trades applauded the Wisconsin American Legion for its support of family-sustaining wages for Wisconsin Veterans.

There are 8,900 Veterans working in the construction industry in Wisconsin. That is the second highest concentration of Veteran employees across all industries, second only to the law enforcement/legal. Construction industry jobs are projected to increase by 15% in the next 5 years, which is a real opportunity for Wisconsin contractors to employ more Veterans.

For many years, the Wisconsin Building Trades have sponsored Veterans’ employment programs, programs such as Helmets to Hardhats, Veterans in Piping, and Combat to Construction. The Building Trades are hosting a Veterans job fair in Pewaukee on March 6. The Governor’s plan to repeal Wisconsin’s prevailing wage laws will hinder recruitment of Veterans into the trades.

“The men and women of the Wisconsin Building Trades understand that Veterans are a critical component to a thriving construction workforce,” said Dan Bukiewicz, President of the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council. “But, we believe in providing our Veterans with not just jobs, but careers with family-sustaining wages, health and retirement benefits and training. Repealing Wisconsin’s prevailing wage laws puts that in jeopardy.”

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## 2-2-2-2 Construction Trades Applaud Wisconsin American Legion Support

Even though the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau has made it clear that repealing Wisconsin prevailing wage laws will not lower the cost of public construction, people still seem to disagree about cost savings. However, everyone agrees that repealing Wisconsin’s prevailing wage laws will lower blue-collar wages. “Because more Veterans work in construction than other industries, repealing Wisconsin’s prevailing wage laws will have a disproportionate, negative impact on Veterans. It’s very simple math,” said Bukiewicz. “That is why Governor Walker’s budget proposal to repeal prevailing wage laws is an attack on Veterans.”

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