



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2009

For more information, please contact:
Fran McLaughlin (414) 278-4244, (414) 235-6592

Walker Opposes Move to Restore Early Release of Inmates

Putting Criminals Back on Streets Will Reverse Current Downward Trend in Violent Crime

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Scott Walker is speaking out against the provisions to provide early release for convicted criminals included in Governor Jim Doyle’s proposed state budget. Walker was the author of the original Truth-in-Sentencing plan that ended parole and early release.

“At a time when violent crime is going down in our state’s largest city, why would we want to put more criminals on the street?” said Walker. “Jim Doyle’s budget would put more criminals on the street sooner. This is the return of parole.”

Data from the police department shows that violent crime in the City of Milwaukee dropped 10% and violent crimes were down 6% in 2008.

“The people of Wisconsin were told that Truth-in-Sentencing would give them certainty to know that a 10-year sentence really means 10-years spent in prison,” said Walker. “Now, the public and – most importantly – victims will be surprised to learn that these convicted criminals could be out on the streets sooner.”

As a member of the State Assembly and as chairman of the Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts, Walker authored (with then-Representative Tom Sykora) the legislation to end parole and early release. The budget proposed by Governor Doyle on Tuesday would restore early release and put the authority to release in the hands of unelected bureaucrats through the renaming of the Parole Commission.

###