



OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

# *Milwaukee County*

SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 1, 2009

Dear members of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association:

The State Legislature's Joint Finance Committee has now voted to approve Governor Jim Doyle's 2009/2011 state budget proposal to release inmates early as a cost-cutting tactic to address the \$6.6 billion deficit. His proposal makes some very dramatic changes to the criminal justice system.

Governor Doyle would allow convicted criminals to earn early release of up to a third off of their sentences in state prisons.

Former Rep. Tom Sykora and I authored the Truth-in-Sentencing legislation that ended parole and early release. It was clear that the public - and particularly victims of crime - wanted to know with certainty that a convicted criminal would serve his entire sentence of confinement in a state prison. Now, up to 3,000 of the 22,000 convicted criminals in the state prison system may be eligible for a significant reduction in their sentences.

As a law enforcement professional, you know how important this issue is to public safety and to a strong criminal justice system. At a time when crime rates are down in many parts of the state, we cannot afford to let up on our efforts to improve public safety.

I strongly encourage you to contact the Governor and members of the State Legislature to oppose this measure and restore Truth-in-Sentencing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Walker".

Scott Walker  
Milwaukee County Executive