



Science in Action

[Wisconsin Science Professionals Local 3732 Supplemental, July 1, 2009](#)

With all the rumors flying around we would like to point out a few truths to remember as we all go through the painful process of the next two years.

- ◆ **First and foremost furloughs and layoffs are separate issues**
 - ❖ **Layoffs are driven by the budget.** Agency budgets are cut by the Legislature and the Governor. Agencies will absorb those cuts through whatever means possible. Some cuts may come in the form of layoffs, but many will not. The 1400 announced by the Governor is a number for a press release. Some agency leaders have already said that they plan to make as many cuts as possible before cutting staff.
 - ❖ **Furloughs are driven by the Governor and the Governor alone.** Regardless of what happened in the budget all state employees were and still are going to be furloughed for 16 days in the next two years. The Governor has the power to send employees home without legislative approval. Furloughs are a political ploy and are owned by Jim Doyle.
- ◆ **Furloughs may not go into effect on July 6th.** Agencies have to develop plans for implementation, and then the Office of State Employee Relations (OSER) has to approve them. This will not happen overnight despite what the Governor has said. There are still many legal and contract issues to be resolved.
- ◆ **Your union is fighting for you.** Over the past six weeks your union representatives have spent hours in meetings with OSER, and various agency leaders trying to point out how dumb the furlough idea really is, and how it will not save any money. We have brought up dozens of questions and problems and are still pushing for answers. We have constantly pointed out that the state must abide by our contract language while providing as much flexibility as possible for our members.

We will continue to push back against the furloughs. We know that the professionalism of our members will push them to fill in the cracks. But there is no question that the people of Wisconsin will suffer with the coming reduction of state services in these difficult times. And they will suffer even though no money is truly saved by this purely political decision by Governor Jim Doyle.

This is a member-to-member communication from the Wisconsin Science Professionals to its members pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 11.29. Members should check workplace rules regarding political action in the workplace before responding.