



WED PM Update -- 3 Dec. 2014

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-- Wisconsin joined 16 other states today in challenging President Obama's executive order on immigration.

Gov. Scott Walker, who asked Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen to join the suit, insisted the lawsuit was not about immigration.

"It is about the rule of law and the legality of President Obama's actions," Walker said.

Texas AG Greg Abbott, who was elected this fall to become gov, took the lead, filing the suit in a federal court in his state. In addition to Texas and Wisconsin, other states participating in the suit are: Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia.

Appearing at a Republican Governors Association meeting last month, Walker urged a lawsuit to challenge the president's order, which defers deportations for millions of immigrants.

"It is clear that the president has exceeded his authority and that this important matter should be reviewed by the courts," said Van Hollen, whose term ends early next month.

AG-elect Brad Schimel, a fellow Republican, plans to continue the lawsuit after he takes office, a spokesman said.

"Brad ran his campaign as the rule of law candidate," said Johnny Koremenos. "To have such a blatant disrespect of the law from President Obama, I know Brad would be passionate about fighting this into the new year."

Read the lawsuit:

<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/2014-news/dhs-complaint-20141203.pdf>

-- Walker today again sidestepped the question of whether he'd sign or veto right-to-work-legislation, but indicated he hoped lawmakers would focus on other priorities.

He noted that "with 132 members, I can't certainly control every single member."

"There are going to be hundreds of bills introduced, and until I see any of them I can't comment on what we will (sign) and what not," Walker said. "But I'll repeat that I just think right-to-work legislation right now, as well as reopening Act 10, or making any other adjustments, would be a distraction to the work we're trying to do."

Walker, who spoke with reporters following remarks he made at the Future Wisconsin Economic Summit in Milwaukee, questioned how much right-to-work would help the state's economy.

"If you look at other states that have that law right now, there are plenty of other things - a much lower tax burden, a much more favorable regulatory climate -- other factors that I think are probably as much, if not more so, why their economy has been and will continue to be positive," he said.

-- State Rep. Chris Kapenga says he's not discouraged by the gov's description of right-to-work legislation as a distraction.

Kapenga, R-Delafield, said he doesn't have a draft of the legislation yet, but plans to work on it in January after lawmakers return for the next session.

"The governor is going to have his own agenda. We're the Legislature. We're a separate branch of government," Kapenga said. "I obviously don't ever want to speak for the governor, and I don't want to speak for him on this. My job is to present a very strong case for this legislation and then he can consider the case when we lay that out."

Kapenga said Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, has indicated an openness on the idea.

"I would not be moving forward with this unless I felt confident on the case we'll be laying out and the discussion I've had over the last four years in the building that we will be able to push this through," he said.