

MARK POCAN
2ND DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

ASSISTANT WHIP



10 EAST DOTY STREET, SUITE 405
MADISON, WI 53703
(608) 258-9800

313 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2906

POCAN.HOUSE.GOV

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 23, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

I am writing to raise concerns about a threat made by Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker to carve Milwaukee County out of a proposed increase in funding for local district attorneys' offices. This threat appears to be in direct retaliation for the Milwaukee County District Attorney's continued "John Doe" investigation into whether Walker violated state campaign finance laws during the 2012 recall election.

As the United States Supreme Court weighs whether to take up the "John Doe" case, Walker recently commented that the Milwaukee County District Attorney's involvement in the investigation may disqualify district attorney offices from a funding increase. These remarks suggest the Governor may intentionally exclude offices from a proposed increase in the state budget for local district attorneys due to the ongoing investigation.

The availability of resources for local district attorneys has a tangible impact on the lives of our citizens and the functionality of our judicial system, and decisions about funding levels for these offices must be free of political considerations. Unfortunately, Governor Walker's comments suggest that the Milwaukee County District Attorney's continued investigation of potential criminal activity in the "John Doe" case will be a deciding factor in whether their office receives a funding increase with other offices across the state.

Ongoing independent investigations should play no role in determining the funding level for District Attorney's offices and specific offices should not be targeted in response to official decisions surrounding case proceedings. As the "John Doe" case continues to move through the justice system, I urge the Department of Justice to take any necessary steps to ensure the Milwaukee District Attorney's office is able to continue this lawful investigation without the threat of politically motivated retribution, and if necessary intervene in the matter itself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Pocan", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress