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## For Immediate Release: March 1, 2010 Contact: Christopher Ahmuty, Executive Director, (414) 272-4032, ext. 13

## ACLU of Wisconsin asks Wisconsin Senate to vote favorably on bill to limit race-based school team names and mascots

Milwaukee – Today the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin asked Wisconsin State Senate majority leader, Russell Decker (D-Schofield), to schedule a vote on legislation to address discriminatory race-based school team nicknames, logos and mascots. Last Thursday, the Wisconsin Assembly passed an amended version of such legislation with bipartisan support.

ACLU of Wisconsin Executive Director Chris Ahmuty in his letter to Decker commended the Assembly for reaching a compromise "that addresses the issue at the same time that school districts are given more than an adequate mechanism to respond to complaints regarding their team nicknames." He went on to write that, "ACLU of Wisconsin supports this legislation because it addresses educational opportunity." He said, "The bill seeks to prevent discrimination, which harms our children, not political correctness."

Ahmuty's letter is attached.

The ACLU of Wisconsin has approximately 9,000 members who support its efforts to defend the civil liberties and civil rights of all Wisconsin residents. For more on the work of the ACLU of Wisconsin, visit our <u>webpage</u>. You can also get news and opinion on civil liberties in Wisconsin on our <u>Cap City Liberty blog</u>. Find us on <u>Facebook and Twitter at ACLUMadison and ACLUofWisconsin</u>.

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