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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **SCHOOLS MUST TELL PARENTS, STUDENTS THEY DON'T HAVE TO GIVE INFORMATION TO MILITARY**

Milwaukee -- The American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin is charging that Wisconsin public schools, including the Milwaukee Public Schools, are denying parents and students important information about military recruitment.

The ACLU of Wisconsin is urging Milwaukee Public Schools - and schools throughout the state - to comply with the law.

“Federal law makes it clear that schools need to give parents and students the chance to say ‘No’ to giving private information to military recruiters,” said Karyn Rotker, an ACLU attorney. “And giving that chance requires more than burying a hard-to-read notice inside the back cover of the district’s handbook.”

The No Child Left Behind law made it easier for military recruiters to get private information - like students’ names, addresses, and phone numbers - from schools. But last week the U.S. Department of Education made it clear that high school students, as well as parents, have the right to keep their information private. In an email sent on September 16, the Family Compliance Policy office said that a “school must honor a request made by a student who took the initiative to tell a school not to disclose his or her name, address, & telephone number to military recruiters.” Federal law is already clear that schools must tell parents that they do not have to allow schools to release their children’s information to recruiters.

“Parents and students together are responsible for guiding students’ careers and protecting their family’s privacy. MPS is failing families by not adequately providing them with important information that every responsible parent and student should have,” said Chris Ahmuty, the ACLU of Wisconsin’s executive director.

The ACLU is asking that MPS refrain from giving any student information to military recruiters until the district develops better notices for students and parents, including notices in other languages for families who don’t speak English.

A copy of the letter the ACLU sent on September 23, 2005 to MPS is attached.