

Contact: Larry Dorman, (860) 989-9127 (cell)
Matt O'Connor, (860) 221-5696 (cell)
Eric Bailey, (860) 997-2717 (cell)

Coalition of State Workers Unions to Governor Rell: "The Wrong Time to Threaten Public Services and Connecticut's Economy"

Earlier today, Governor Rell was quoted saying she is "trying very hard, very hard to avoid layoffs at all costs." Unfortunately, her office then issued a press release stating that "any meaningful cuts in Personal Services will now necessarily result in layoffs" and "cuts in higher education."

"Some may see the Governor's statement as a threat to State public service workers" said Ed Marth, the Executive Director of the University of Connecticut Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (UConn - AAUP), one of the leaders of the State employee unions who have been meeting with her Administration's representatives to produce the savings she has said are needed to mitigate the budget deficit. "I have to question Governor Rell's leadership when she talks about cuts to our public colleges and universities. That would be a death blow to our state's economy and hurt everyone in Connecticut."

Leading economists have warned that cutting the services the public workforce delivers in an economic crisis only worsens our economy as a whole. In fact, last month, UCONN's Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis (CCEA) found that balancing the budget through State employee layoffs would be "devastating" and result in 70,000 lost jobs, "in addition to the forecast loss of 55,000."

Leaders of the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) have continued meetings with the Administration in an attempt to reach an agreement that protects the services upon which the people and our state's economy depend. "If there is an atmosphere of respect for working families and for the public that depends on quality services, we have no doubt a comprehensive solution could be crafted quickly" Peggy Beckett-Rinker, the Executive Director of the University of Connecticut Professional Employees Association (UCPEA) added.

UConn - AAUP and UCPEA are two of the thirteen unions in SEBAC, which serves to unite approximately 50,000 Connecticut State public service workers to address issues of common concern. To learn more about the coalition's campaign for a fair budget and a livable state with great public services, visit www.InThisTogetherCT.org.

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The State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition's (SEBAC) member unions are:

- *AFT Connecticut*
- *American Association of University Professors – Connecticut State University*
- *American Association of University Professors – UCONN*
- *American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees - Council 4*
- *Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges/SEIU Local 1973*
- *Connecticut Association of Prosecutors*
- *Connecticut Employees Union Independent/SEIU Local 511*
- *Connecticut Federations of School Administrators Local 61*
- *Connecticut State Police Union*
- *CSEA SEIU Local 2001*
- *International Brotherhood of Police Officers/SEIU Local 731*
- *New England Healthcare Employees Union, District 1199/SEIU*
- *Protective Services Employees Coalition/IAFF-IUPA*