

For Release:

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**If Budget Deal Before Legislators Passes --
Services, Communities, Private Sector Will Suffer**

- > Administrative & Residual Union Local 4200/AFT
- > 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 Police and Fire Union/IAFF-IUPA
- > Connecticut State Police Union
- > CSEA SEIU Local 2001
- > International Brotherhood of Police Officers/SEIU Local 731
- > Judicial Professional Employees Union, AFT Local 4200-B
- > New England Healthcare Employees Union, District 1199/SEIU
- > UCHC – American Association of University Professors

Representatives of the teachers, public safety workers, mental health workers and others who provide services to Connecticut citizens urged legislators to vote their consciences rather to accept the budget deal which may be brought before the General Assembly this week. They noted that Gov. Malloy and the leadership's \$820 million in state program cuts and employee layoffs would be responsible for substantially damaging the quality of life for millions of Connecticut residents.

"Instead of bringing taxes up to a fair level for the wealthiest citizens of our wealthy state, the governor and legislative leadership are proposing deep state program cuts that will damage local governments, and school districts and small businesses that are at the heart of our economy" said Roland Bishop, a state schoolteacher who is secretary-treasurer of CSEA SEIU Local 200. "We know that taxing the very wealthy at a fair level -- as in New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey -- will produce the revenue that is needed to keep middle class people from bearing the burden of these proposed cuts," he said "This budget is a poorly thought-out response by politicians unwilling to tax their most affluent constituents."

The package likely to be voted on this week cuts municipal aid which likely will lead to layoffs in schools and to local property tax increases along with state public service cuts. The proposed measure could also lead to layoffs for up to 5,000 state workers who provide essential services to working families, as well as seniors, the disabled and veterans.

"We're calling on legislators to pass a fair budget that protects the public services and structures we all rely on," Taffy Womack, an administrative assistant at the Secretary of State's Office and president of AFSCME Local 704, a union representing state clerical workers. "Connecticut's communities, families, and economy will suffer beyond imagination if the governor's austerity plan becomes reality," added Womack, who saw 40 of her union members laid off at agencies that serve some of Connecticut's most vulnerable citizens, including DSS and DMHAS.

Those likely to be laid off include rape crisis counselors, probation officers, corrections officers, nurses and mental health workers and others who work with schools, youth and the disabled. Virtually everyone in Connecticut is likely to be indirectly negatively impacted by these job cuts.

"In this proposed budget, criminal justice services in the Judicial Branch suffer nearly \$50 million in cuts," said Carmen Roda, an adult probation officer with 14 years of experience with the branch. "What we don't know is how many courthouses that will close — or how the Second Chance society initiative will work without enough probation officers to supervise clients. Simply put, this budget threatens our state's quality of life by jeopardizing community safety," added Roda, who serves as president of the Judicial Professional Employees (JPE) Union, AFT Local 4200-B

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The State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) unites all 16 unions representing 45,000 Connecticut state public service workers together to address important issues to all its members and the people they serve.