

- ▶▶ 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

## *The State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition*

### **Statement on Rell Administration's Retirement Incentive Program (RIP) Letter**

Late on the afternoon of February 13, we discovered that state agencies were circulating copies regarding a letter the Governor is expected to deliver to legislative leaders sometime next week.

This communication indicates that the Governor will ask the legislature to meet and discuss how to implement a retirement incentive program through the legislative process, circumventing the discussions we are currently having at the bargaining table. It contains no policy details and is completely unconnected to our guiding principle of protecting public services and respecting the people who provide those services.

While a retirement incentives program is clearly part of our overall discussions with the Governor's representatives, it is exactly that – a part. We appreciate the urgency of finding a solution and have been meeting regularly with the Governor's representatives to formulate a comprehensive plan. We have more meetings scheduled, including next Saturday, Feb. 21.

With so much at stake, it is dangerous for the Rell administration to operate in such a deliberately piecemeal fashion. Whatever decisions are made concerning state workers, we have a responsibility to ensure that vital public services will be available for people when they need them the most. This includes an honest dialogue about how a decreased workforce will be able to handle increased workloads.

Six years ago, the administration of Governor Rowland, which included then-Lt. Governor Rell, made an end-run around discussions with our unions, and went to the legislature for a retirement incentive program. That program passed the legislature. The state lost 6,000 workers to retirement, in the aftermath of 3,000 workers being laid off by Rowland. Back then, the state had no plan to deal with the colossal shift in workloads for those who remained. As a result, public services, and the people who relied on them, suffered.

SEBAC does not want to see these mistakes repeated. Today's economic crisis cannot be solved with unrelated bits and pieces of public policy. The Governor's energies would be better directed back to the discussions that are currently underway. These discussions have the best chance of protecting public services and providing reasonable assurances for the people who deliver them.

Please go to [www.inthistogetherct.org](http://www.inthistogetherct.org), and sign our petition to protect public services and to sign up for news alerts and action updates.