

HEALTH SERVICES, NOW MORE THAN EVER!

State Healthcare Workers

February 05, 2008

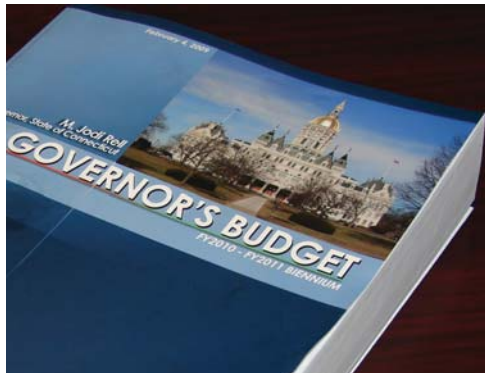
www.seiu1199ne.org

Governor Releases 2010-2011 Budget Proposal

"Hurtful", "Damaging", "Backward." These were some of the responses from 1199 members who gathered at the Legislative Office Building to hear Governor Rell's budget proposal on Wednesday, February 4th.

Rell's budget ignores what President Obama and a majority of Connecticut residents now recognize—reducing public spending at a time when demand increases only worsens the economy's downward spiral.

In a statement yesterday, SEBAC, our state employee union coalition which is in discussions with the governor's



office put it this way. **"The people of Connecticut needed a life preserver and instead Governor Rell threw them an anchor."**

For many, her proposal went way beyond cuts that hurt. And contrary to her rhetoric of "we're all in this together and we must all share the sacrifices," some got a free pass. Under Rell's plan, the wealthiest Connecticut residents will still be able to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, leaving our state's working

families, public service employees and the people we serve to carry the burden of lost jobs and service cuts.

Connecticut's people deserve more from their government than simply joining in the cycle of spending reductions, cutbacks, and layoffs. They deserve a government that invests in its people and infrastructure, even more so in difficult times. Only by doing this will we spark the process that will turn the economy around.

"Our members are ready to be part of the budget solution, but not at the expense of those who need our services," 1199/SEIU President Carmen Boudier explained. "The message to governor and the legislature is clear: public service workers cannot accept a budget package that further hurts the working families of our state."



1199^{ers} Meet with State Senate President Don Williams

Over 160 1199^{ers} met with State Senate President Don Williams in Willimantic on Tuesday, January 27th. In a packed meeting, residents of Senator Williams's 29th Senate district delivered the message that behind every cut in service is a family that's directly affected.

Workers told Senator Williams how our work sites are already overextended and running bare-bones operations.

Cuts to health services is the worse way to go at a time when people need services the most and economists say we need **more** funding to get us through this crisis.

Meetings with state legislators have been set up statewide so we can hold them accountable for protecting health services. **See the list at right for a meeting near you.**

Upcoming Legislative Meetings

Monday, February 9th 5:45^{PM}
Bridgeport-
North End Library
3455 Madison Avenue

Thursday, February 12th 5:45^{PM}
Hartford-
1199NE Headquarters
77 Huyshope Avenue

Thursday, February 19th 5:45^{PM}
Waterbury-
Old Elton Hotel
30 W Main St # 2, Waterbury

Saturday, February 21st 9:30^{AM}
New Haven-
People's Center
37 Howe St, New Haven

Monday, February 23rd 5:45^{PM}
Norwich-
Courtyard Marriott
181 West Town Street, Norwich

Saturday, February 28th 9:30^{AM}
Willimantic
First Congregational Church
199 Valley St, Willimantic



SEIU Healthcare
1199NE | United for Quality Care

Connecticut Voters are Clear:

84% say cutting services like health care, education and public safety in an economic crisis will only make things worse!

A new poll released January 29th shows that Connecticut voters get it - this is not an economic crisis we can cut our way out of nor should we try.

Connecticut voters place a high premium on maintaining services.

84% 84% agree that cutting funding for public services like health care, education and road maintenance during a time of recession further damages the economy and denies critical services to citizens at the very time they are needed most.

83% 83% say that job layoffs, whether for public sector or private sector employees, hurt everyone and further weaken the economy

77% And when asked if they felt cutting public services, like health care, lead to greater costs for the state further down the road, 77% said yes.

So how do we close the budget gap?

54% A strong majority of Connecticut voters (54%) say the best way to fill the budget gap is to find new sources of revenue and get the money from those who have benefited most from this economy.

83% 83% favor raising taxes on those making over \$200,000 and

83% 83% favor eliminating corporate tax loopholes.



To view the complete poll results please visit

INTHISTOGETHERCT.org

How would public service cuts affect Connecticut's economy?

The Economic Crisis & Connecticut's Future

A Citizen's Forum

**Monday,
February 9th**

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**Legislative
Office Building, Room 1C**

Capitol Ave., Hartford

Featuring:

Economist Robert H. Frank



- *New York Times* "Economic View" columnist
- Author of *Falling Behind: How Rising Inequality Harms the Middle Class*; and *Principles of Economics*, co-authored with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke
- Professor of Management and Economics at Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management
- Visiting Professor of Business Ethics at New York University's Stern School of Business



Congressman Chris Murphy

- Connecticut Democrat, 5th Congressional District
- Energy and Commerce Committee
- Oversight and Government Reform Committee