

## **Governor Rell's November 2009 Deficit Mitigation Plan OUTLINE FOR MEMBERS**

*Governor Rell's budget deficit mitigation plan is more of the same – more devastation to vitally needed services, more unwillingness to face the facts about how to actually solve the crisis and more damage to the wounded state economy.*

### **1. Governor Rell's budget deficit mitigation proposal will decimate public services that have already been cut to the bare bone.**

- In every proposal put forward by Governor Rell, she has targeted those programs that serve the state's most needy populations. She continues to do so today.
- Her proposal would reduce funding to children with autism, adults with Alzheimer's, and people with AIDS.
- It would severely cut funding for the meals on wheels programs, people who need help paying for heating fuel in the cold winter months and Dial-a-Ride.
- Governor Rell's proposal cuts these important government services, which simply are not available by any other means, at the worst possible time for those in need.

### **2. This proposal not only impacts the poor, the sick and the elderly, it impacts business growth and jobs.**

- Governor Rell's proposal eliminates funding for important sectors of the state's economy that have been showing growth potential.
- It severely cuts funding for research and development in the biomedical field.
- It eliminates funding for the Center for Advanced Technology, which helps small business and manufacturing.
- Finally, it makes cuts to municipal budgets. This unwise decision will impact local property taxes and that is inevitably bad for small and large businesses alike.
- All of this translates to job losses. The governor's current proposals would cost another 5000 jobs, on top of about 30,000 that cuts already in the budget will cost us.

**3. SEBAC predicted all along what would result from a "solution" based on public service cuts instead of on increasing revenue from those able to pay. We are seeing those results now. Enough is enough.**

- Back in February, we warned the Governor that cuts to balance the budget would lead to a slower recovery which in turn would lead to a new budget crisis.
- We said that 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* in difficult times, and so helps to spark the process of turning the economy around.
- It will be a struggle either way, but it's far better that we struggle to begin a positive cycle of reinvestment, hope, and renewal, than a vicious cycle of cutback, despair, and decline.
- It's time to end the vicious cycle and put Connecticut back on track.