

BULLY'S PULPIT 22
July 14, 2010

"Dual Coverage" Letter Creates Confusion

In his crusade to hurt middle class teachers and educational employees, Governor Bluto signed legislation (Chapter 2, PL2010) that was passed by the "good dog" Legislature several months ago. This legislation prohibits staff members married to other staff members from having duplicate coverage in the School Employees Health Benefits Program (SEHBP).

Recently the District Department of Health Benefits sent an email to staff members who fit this description providing information about the Bully's bill and directing that responses be returned by July 15. When the Association pointed out that all staff members might not be checking their district emails during the summer, and others might be away, the District agreed to mail the information and accept the responses through July 30.

BASIC BULLY BS (bad stuff) says that, in effect, there can be no coordination of benefits for married staff members. One of the spouses will have to terminate the coverage as a dependent for the other spouse by completing, in its entirety, the Health Benefits Program Application that was included in the packet and not include the spouse/employee in

Section 4.

Dependent children will have to be listed as dependents by only one parent.

The spouse who drops his/her coverage as a dependent on the other spouse's coverage should maintain their individual coverage.

This rule is for HEATH BENEFITS only. Questions should be referred to the District Health Benefits Department.

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"A devastating day for children and public education."

NJEA President Barbara Keshishian issued this statement following the Assembly's passage of a 2.0 percent cap on property taxes:

"This is a devastating day for children and public education in New Jersey. On the heels of more than \$1.3 billion in cuts to public education, the Legislature and the governor have put an ill-conceived and shortsighted policy in place that will prevent our public schools from ever climbing out of the hole that has been dug for them by the state.

This two percent cap has no basis in reality. It is lower than the historic rate of inflation, which means that in terms of real dollars, local school funding will decrease each year.

It contains no exception for many rising costs faced by districts, including the cost of special education. There is no

exception for rising energy costs, which can be very volatile.
There is
no exception for shortfalls in state aid, as districts are
experiencing
this year. As costs outside of districts' control continue to
increase,
funding will not follow. Services will decline even as local
property
taxes continue to increase.

In September, parents and students will begin to see the
consequences of this governor's slash-and-burn approach to
school
funding. Class sizes will be larger, courses will be eliminated and
programs will disappear.

The cap bill passed today ensures that this year's devastation
is just beginning. From this point forward, every new school year
will
bring deeper and more harmful cuts. Our children will pay the
price for
the shortsighted decision that our elected leaders have made."

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Fight Back !!!

Have you written an email to your Congressman urging him to
support the
EduJobs bill?

You have?

Great! PLEASE DO IT AGAIN.

You haven't?

Why the heck not?

We are losing elementary art, elementary music, elementary world languages, guidance, SAC's, librarians and many more because of the Bully's Budget cuts. The only way to save them is to keep the staff members who provide those services.

PLEASE contact Menendez and Lautenberg (see page 24 of your P.E.A. Calendar). Ask them to support the Edujobs bill, and make certain that New Jersey is eligible for funding.

P.E.A. OFFICERS ALONE CAN'T BRING BACK JOBS.
MONEY BRINGS BACK JOBS.
YOU MUST BE PART OF THIS SOLUTION!!!!