

AFSCME Local 2620

April 13, 2009

Dear AFSCME Brothers and Sisters,

Many of you have been asking for an update on bargaining. I haven't provided you with any information because no real progress is being made.

Right now we are stuck, waiting for the state to respond favorably to our request for 16 hours of holiday time to compensate us for the two holidays they took away. There are numerous other unions representing tens of thousands of state workers now facing the same dilemma. We all feel that the state is not dealing fairly with us, having granted several conciliatory proposals on behalf of the members of SEIU, while refusing our members the same consideration. We cannot and will not tolerate such blatant disparate treatment.

We are in discussions with the other unions and with legislative leaders about this unfair treatment. We are asking for an open hearing where our concerns can be heard and where we can appeal to the legislature for support.

In the meanwhile, we are held hostage at the bargaining table. Our team has made every effort to demonstrate our willingness to do our part during these difficult and challenging times. We understand the overwhelming financial burden California is experiencing and we have been appropriately realistic in our requests. However, if this Governor or his representatives think AFSCME 2620 is going to roll over and let them treat us like unwelcomed guests at their gathering, they clearly have another thing coming. We are hard working professionals who provide vital services to multiple populations throughout California. The state simply cannot function without the services we provide. We aren't asking for a reward for our dedicated service. We are simply asking our employer to treat us fairly as one body and one workforce.

We will continue this fight wherever it takes us, and will keep you posted as we move forward in our quest for justice and equality.

In Solidarity,

Nancy Swindell, President
AFSCME Local 2620