FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2022

State Agencies look to the leadership of the NH Executive Council to help support public employees in hopes of reaching fair and functional contract settlements

CONCORD, NH – The State Employees’ Association, SEIU Local 1984 is calling on Governor Chris Sununu and the Executive Council to provide fair contracts for public servants in state government and to allow the Executive Council to vote on the recent Fact Finders Reports before the Council, as required by law, on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

The SEA and the Governor have been able to settle several State Employee labor contracts, but there are still several agencies that have not been able to reach an agreement. The SEA and the State have been at a bargaining deadlock since last year, in an attempt to reach an agreement, the parties participated in fact finding in late 2021.

With the assistance of a third neutral party, the SEA (representing the Dept. of Transportation employees, the Retail employees at NH Liquor Commission, the NH Marine Patrol Officers at Dept. of Safety, The employees at Information Technology, Employees at Juvenile Justice and the employees at NH Hospital) and the bargaining team for the State of New Hampshire participated in individual fact-finding hearings. The SEA and the State were able to settle two (2) of the outstanding contracts (DOIT & DJJS) but the parties were not able to reach an agreement with the remaining four (4). As a result of the continued deadlock, the parties are required to submit the reports to their oversight bodies. For the SEA, that is the membership of the agencies and for the State, it is the Executive Council.

“The governor’s number one job is to run the state, and we need Governor Sununu, now more than ever, to provide the needed leadership and support for his employees”, states SEA President Rich Gulla. “The State of New Hampshire is struggling greatly with hiring and retention. Fair employee labor agreements go a long way towards the workplace stability that is needed for employees to provide quality services to NH citizens during these demanding times.”

The reports are on the agenda to go before the Executive Council on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 for a vote. The members of the affected agencies are looking to the leadership of the NH Executive Council to help support public employees during these trying times and to take the steps needed to help the parties reach fair and functional contract settlements.

The State Employees’ Union, SEIU Local 1984, represents more than 10,000 members across New Hampshire. We are a member-driven organization united by a common goal: strong unions contribute to a stronger community. We are dedicated to improving the lives of workers and advocate for working families in New Hampshire.

www.seiu1984.org

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