

## **State Employee Union Coalition Ratifies Concessions Deal; Major Layoffs Averted**

State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) leadership announced today (8/18/11) that rank-and-file union members have voted to accept the Malloy administration's proposed state employee union concession package. In accepting the concessions, union members will see certain wage freezes and benefit cuts and modifications, but have secured a "no layoff" provision extension for the next four years. The concession package, worth \$1.6 billion, closes the budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2012, the current year, and FY 2013.

The original union concession plan negotiated between the Malloy administration and SEBAC leadership was rejected by the union rank-and-file earlier in the summer. As a result of that rejection, the administration began the process of finding savings within agency budgets to close the \$1.6 billion budget hole. The savings included issuing layoff notices to more than 3,000 state employees. With the concessions accepted, layoffs previously announced will be rescinded.

After the rejection of the original plan, SEBAC leaders modified the concession plan ratification process and sought clarification from the Malloy administration on the specifics of the plan, thus allowing for the new vote by state workers. Fourteen out of 15 bargaining units voted in favor of accepting the concession deal.

With the FY 2012 and FY 2013 biennium budget in place, the Malloy administration has pledged to focus on job creation and reducing the ranks of the unemployed. It is expected that a Special Legislative Session will be held in the fall to act on legislation addressing job creation.