



Rhode Island Council 94

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

1179 Charles Street, North Providence, RI 02904

(401) 724-5900 421-9383

Fax: (401) 724-2060



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
August 20, 2008

Contact: Jim Cenerini
(401) 724-5900 – work
(401) 378-8491 - cell

Statement of J. Michael Downey, President, Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

AFSCME Council 94 is pleased that Superior Court Judge Hurst granted our motion for a temporary restraining order and emphasized that the Governor is not above the law. Our motion sought to prevent the implementation of Governor Carcieri's Executive Order No. 08-06 imposing a contract on state workers that would have drastically increased health insurance costs.

We do not believe, however, that Judge Hurst's ruling goes far enough. While the Court's ruling permanently enjoins the Governor from implementing the Executive Order in the judicial or legislative branches, it allows the Governor to implement it for workers in the executive department. The ruling also leaves it to the State Labor Relations Board to determine whether the Governor violated labor and contract laws and what relief would be appropriate.

AFSCME Council 94 represents about 4,000 Rhode Island state workers who make an average salary of \$35,000. We are the people who enrich our children's education, protect Rhode Island's bay and beaches, care for our sick, and more. All Rhode Islanders are feeling the economic crunch, and we all have to pitch in to help. We want to see a balanced budget that still retains the quality of life we all want for Rhode Island, and AFSCME has made proposals to the governor that will help save costs.

AFSCME has played by the rules - everyday we're hard at work doing the important public jobs that keep Rhode Island functioning. We want the Governor to follow the rules, too, and work out a fair agreement that won't break the budget.

AFSCME will file an appeal and ask the court to issue a stay of its decision.

In the meantime, every day the 1.1 million people who live and work in Rhode Island benefit from the public systems and services provided by our dedicated members. The current fiscal crunch makes this work more important than ever. We need a contract that everyone agrees to so we can help Rhode Island move forward.

###

in the public service

