



State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition

- > Administrative & Residual Union Local 4200/AFT
- > AFT Connecticut
- > American Association of University Professors – Connecticut State University
- > American Association of University Professors – UCONN
- > American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees - Council 4
- > Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges/ SEIU Local 1973
- > Connecticut Association of Prosecutors
- > Connecticut Employees Union Independent/ SEIU Local 511
- > Connecticut Federations of School Administrators Local 61
- > Connecticut Police and Fire Union/IAFF-IUPA
- > Connecticut State Police Union
- > CSEA SEIU Local 2001
- > International Brotherhood of Police Officers/SEIU Local 731
- > New England Healthcare Employees Union, District 1199/SEIU
- > UCONN Health Center Faculty-AAUP

# The State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition

## Latest Attempts to Distort Job and Benefits Saving Agreement Expose Opponents' Desperation

July 5, 2011

Former Republican State Senator and *Hartford Courant* columnist Kevin Rennie's "revelation" today that a state employee union leader is a supporter of the now-dead Sustinet legislation is hardly news. Council 4 AFSCME Executive Director Sal Luciano was a labor representative on the Sustinet Board, and a long supporter of reforming the state's healthcare system to provide universal, affordable access for all. There's nothing outrageous about that.

What is outrageous is Rennie's suggestion that Sal's -- or anyone's -- support for Sustinet somehow proves false arguments and deliberate lies spread by those who oppose any agreement protecting state workers' jobs. The reality is that the SEBAC 2011 tentative agreement (TA) was never connected to the Sustinet legislation.

The agreement reached between State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) leaders and representatives of Governor Dannel P. Malloy's Administration said nothing about universal healthcare. What it did say was that the benefits and access of state employees to their healthcare would be protected through at least July 1, 2022. It did say that neither the legislature nor the governor could make unilateral changes to employees' healthcare for at least 11 years -- five years longer than they are currently protected.

The agreement would have actually made state employee benefits less subject to legislative manipulation -- whether for or against the Sustinet bill or a universal healthcare proposal -- than they are now.

SEBAC leaders resolved six years ago to reaffirm the authority over retired and active state employee healthcare benefits, and to keep the General Assembly or the governor from imposing changes without negotiation.

The 2005 resolution is attached.

Rennie's piece refers to a letter from Sal in April of this year with the reference that the "State Employee plan will become part of Sustinet." That meant the State health plan would be part of the bidding of insurance and both the state and the workforce would benefit from a larger purchasing "pool." It did not mean that state employees' benefits would change, or that their control by the Health Care Cost Containment Committee (HCCC) or the collective bargaining process would change.

Kevin Rennie is a smart man. He knows this, and it's disingenuous to suggest otherwise.

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No poll has yet been taken, but it's likely that a majority of state workers favor protecting and expanding their benefits and also believe that other working families deserve good benefits, too. Certainly a majority of state workers who voted approved SEBAC 2011, an agreement that protects public services and the people who provide them.

There's nothing inconsistent about those two things, despite the nonsense spread by Kevin Rennie and others whose agenda is to bring down the living standards of all working and middle class families, both in the public and private sectors.

Click here to learn more about the coalition's efforts to determine a path forward that protects public services and the working families that deliver them.

Learn more about the coalition's efforts to determine a path forward that protects public services and the working families that deliver them online at [www.InThisTogetherCT.org](http://www.InThisTogetherCT.org).

## 2-1-2005 SEBAC Leadership Resolution

SEBAC Leadership recognizes and supports the efforts to treat healthcare as a fundamental right, to expand access to health care for all working families, and to use healthcare pooling and other cost-saving avenues to expand health care access and moderate its cost. At the same time, Leadership reiterates its commitment that the State Employee Health Care Plan shall remain subject solely to the control of the Health Care Cost Containment Committee and the parties. Any effort to modify or affect the benefits of, or access to, the state employee health care plan without the express agreement of SEBAC would be a violation of our contract and of state and federal statutory and constitutional requirement.

Passed by Consensus, as modified on February 1, 2005.