



**SAMPLE MEMBER-TO-LEGISLATOR MESSAGES**

Dear [Representative/Senator]

As your constituent, I am urging you to oppose the governor's plan to continue laying off state employee layoffs and cutting the vital services we provide.

Laying off state employees will make things worse, not better, for Connecticut. Laying off state workers and slashing their services will harm our families, damage consumer spending and lead to the loss of private sector jobs.

Closing the budget on the backs of middle class state employees is not the answer. Connecticut's richest 1% pay 5.3 percent in state and local taxes, while the rest of the 99% pay an average of 9.9 percent. 1

If the tax obligations for the wealthiest individuals and corporations were fairer, the proposed drastic cuts could be averted. There are other ways to fix the deficit without imposing a special tax increase on state employees or laying them off and wrecking public services.

Please support a budget that is fair, responsible and makes better choices to fix the budget deficit and protect Connecticut's middle class.

Thank you.

## REVENUE & SAVINGS IDEAS:

- Reduce the amount of services that are exempt from sales tax which can bring in hundreds of millions in revenue.
- Support **SB 391** would charge a fee to large, for-profit corporations with 500 or more employees that taxpayers subsidize because they are paid low-wages. This could bring in over **\$240 million** in revenue and pay for childcare, elderly, and disabled services.
- Increase staff and enforcement at the Department of Revenue Services to collect taxes that are currently uncollected from corporations and wealthy tax avoiders. This could bring in up to **\$75 million!**
- Increase the rate on personal income and capital gains on the wealthiest residents of our state which could bring in an additional **\$283.1 million!**
- Adhere to Page 1 of the 2011 SEBAC Agreement, which provides the framework for significant cost-savings through the Savings and Transformation process outlined.