



**For Immediate Release**

May 3, 2016

**Statement by Charles DellaRocco, President**

**AFSCME Local 749**

**Re: Judicial Branch Layoffs**

Governor Malloy has further compromised public safety and criminal justice by forcing the Judicial Branch to lay off hundreds of dedicated employees, close courthouses and detention centers, and slash other vital services.

Budget cuts and layoffs will cost Connecticut a fortune and make it tougher for businesses, families and individuals to access justice by crippling the Judicial Branch, the Division of Criminal Justice and the Public Defenders' offices where our members work.

There are better choices to make. A truly balanced approach to the deficit would look to generate revenue, rather than relying on a cuts-only approach that threatens an already fragile economic recovery. Revenue options the governor has stubbornly ignored include closing tax loopholes, modernizing outdated tax laws, and restoring taxes on the wealthiest citizens and largest corporations.

The governor and legislative leadership have ignored other options as well, like reining in reckless outsourcing, flattening the management bureaucracy that stunts a more effective delivery of services, and implementing meaningful cost-savings ideas from front-line state workers.

It is to the credit of the Judicial Branch that they have handled the layoffs with a sense of dignity and order that's been cruelly absent in the Executive Branch. But the bottom line is this: layoffs and service cuts will make Connecticut a worse place to live and do business.

*AFSCME Local 749 represents more than 1,600 employees in the Judicial Branch, Division of Criminal Justice and Public Defender's Office.*