

Colleagues,

We have received a number of calls to the office asking when we planned to make a statement about Governor Malloy's budget and the proposal to move the CTHSS out of the Department of Education. We believe that before we speak, we owe it to the membership to have a clear picture of where we are and the process that lies ahead.

The most important battle we face is the proposal to turn the CTHSS over to local school districts. This idea is not new; every several years it emerges, only to fade away when its inherent flaws become obvious to everyone. We must be diligent in educating legislators about why this proposal must be defeated. The SVFT will join the administrators' union and Central Office in providing testimony against the proposal on Wednesday; we will post that testimony on svft.org late next week. The AFT lobbyist and our legislative intern are working to ensure that our position is heard by legislators. This fight is for nothing less than the survival of our system, and we will take every step possible to make sure the proposal is defeated. AFT lobbyist Jennifer Berigan will let us know when and how the membership can best get involved; we know we will need everyone's efforts.

The impact of the budget on State workers is still being analyzed and discussed. We attended SEBAC meetings Wednesday and Thursday this week, and there are certainly far more meetings on the horizon. It is important to remember that we must work within SEBAC in our response to the budget. We are very early in that process. There have been no discussions about concessions at this time.

We will make sure you are kept informed as we face these most difficult challenges. We will use every means of communication at our disposal to be in contact – school visits, the newsletter, our website, and emails. We will try to answer every question you have, but our experience last year with the LPN program has taught us that we must be patient and let the process unfold. We will share with you all the information we can in as timely a manner as possible.

In Solidarity,

Rick, Jan, and Ed