



NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SEANC Releases Radio Ads Targeting Legislators' Disregard for Public Services

The State Employees Association of North Carolina will run radio ads beginning Tuesday, April 28, in the home districts of two legislators who favor measures that harm the state's working families and public services, including state employee furloughs and State Health Plan cost increases.

The ad "Bad Ideas" targets Rep. Margaret Dickson's votes in favor of State Health Plan cost-shifting to employees and her co-sponsorship of House Bill 708: Furlough of State Employees. The "Part of the Problem" ad targets Rep. Hugh Holliman for his incompetent management of the State Health Plan.

"Citizens must be made aware that quality services will suffer, become less accessible and could put the public at risk with each poor decision these legislators make," said SEANC Executive Director Dana Cope. See the ad transcripts and links below.

**"Bad Ideas"** (<http://www.seanc.org/docs/press/SEANC-BadIdeas.mp3>)

Representative Margaret Dixon is just full of bad ideas. She wants to force state workers like probation officers to take unpaid leave.<sup>1</sup> Since 2000, almost 600 criminals who were already on probation murdered someone in North Carolina.<sup>2</sup>

The fact is our state's probation officers are underpaid and overworked, with case loads that are out of control. Forcing them to take time off will just make matters worse. But it's not just probation officers Rep. Dickson would lay off. It's health care workers, correctional officers and DMV employees—people who provide vital services to our state.

And while health care costs skyrocket and more people become uninsured, Margaret Dixon supports cutting benefits and raising premiums for the State Health Plan.<sup>3</sup> It's time for Rep. Margaret Dixon to get a few new ideas. Paid for by the working families of SEANC.

1. NC HB 708, <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2009/Bills/House/HTML/H708v1.html>

2. <http://www.newsobserver.com/2933/story/1324510.html>

3. <http://www.newsobserver.com/1565/story/1497020.html>

NC SB 287, <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/voteHistory/RollCallVoteTranscript.pl?sSession=2009&sChamber=H&RCS=207>

**"Part of the Problem"** (<http://www.seanc.org/docs/press/SEANC-PartOfProblem.mp3>)

Health care costs are skyrocketing. More people are uninsured and even more are under-insured. If we're not in a crisis yet, we soon will be.

So what's House Majority Leader Hugh Holliman doing about it? Not a thing. In fact, he's cutting benefits and raising premiums for the State Health Plan.<sup>1</sup> One newspaper says "lawmakers should be ashamed," that the plan is "unconscionable in this economic climate."<sup>2</sup> Holliman's plan will put increased burden on North Carolina families that are already struggling to make ends meet.

The State Health Plan needs to be fixed. That means providing better coverage for more people. Hugh Holliman has his priorities wrong. He's part of the problem when he needs to be part of the solution. Maybe it's time for new leadership in the North Carolina legislature. Paid for by the working families of SEANC.

1. <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1484805.html>; <http://www.newsobserver.com/1565/story/1497020.html>

2. <http://www.reflector.com/opinion/editorial-no-remedy--health-plan-fix-would-harm-not-help-551446.html>

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