



State of Connecticut
Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr.
President Pro Tempore

March 30, 2010

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell
Governor
State of Connecticut
State Capitol, Room 202
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

I am writing to call for your support of the deficit mitigation package recently passed by the Senate. The bill closes the deficit for Fiscal Year 2010, and begins cutting the projected deficit for 2011.

In addition, I am calling for a meeting of state leadership at your earliest convenience Thursday morning to discuss in person any outstanding questions or misunderstandings concerning our plan. As you are no doubt aware, we incorporated many of your proposed cuts to state spending, such as:

- Limit Premium Assistance Under Charter Oak: FY10 - \$300,000 FY11 - \$5.8 million
- Suspend Coverage of most over-the-counter Drugs under Medicaid: FY10 - \$550,000 FY11 - \$3.3 million
- Require UConn to pick up some of its debt service costs: FY10 - \$5 million FY11 - \$10 million

The plan approved by the Senate also includes new cuts, including:

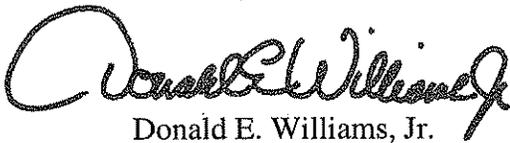
- Eliminate Longevity Payments for Non-Union Employees: FY 10 - \$5.4 million FY11 - \$10.6 million
- Eliminate Deputy Commissioners: FY 11 - \$3 million
- Require CSU to pick up some of its debt service costs: FY 10 - \$1 million FY 11 - \$2 million

All told, our cuts total 71% of your reductions. Without your unspecified cuts to municipal aid, we are at 90%.

Also of significance, we have built upon your idea to collect our fair share of federal funding for health care through what you called the "hospital user fee." All told, our plan, including the changes to SAGA, provides a net *increase* of funding to an estimated twenty-two of the twenty-eight hospitals subject to the "hospital user fee," allowing them to hold down health care costs. This is in contrast to the estimated seventeen hospitals that lose money under your plan.

There is still time to close the deficits for both 2010 and 2011 during the regular session of the legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald E. Williams, Jr." in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Donald E. Williams, Jr.