



NEWS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 12, 2010

SEANC Decries Sweetheart Deals for Blue Cross *Where was Hugh Holliman?*

RALEIGH — Following the news that former Sen. Tony Rand fixed rates for inmates to favor insurance company Blue Cross and Blue Shield of N.C., the State Employees Association of North Carolina continues to call for an end to sweetheart deals for Blue Cross.

“When one e-mail from an insurance executive takes precedence over health care consumers and taxpayers, we have a big problem,” SEANC Executive Director Dana Cope. “Was Hugh Holliman asleep at the wheel or a willing ally in this debacle?”

Last year, Majority Leaders Hugh Holliman and Tony Rand co-chaired the House-Senate legislative committee that oversees the State Health Plan, which has also favored Blue Cross over North Carolinas working families. In addition to raising health care costs on state employees and causing the state to overpay for inmate health care, legislative oversight also failed when at least \$2.5 million in hospital overpayments were revealed last fall.

Similarly, SEANC has been fighting for nearly a year to learn all of the details of the State Health Plan’s cost-plus contract with Blue Cross. State employees’ and taxpayers’ costs continue to rise, while Blue Cross’ actual profits from state contracts remains elusive. Only a handful of legislators appeared to have access to those details, including Rand and Holliman.

As part of its 2010 legislative goals, SEANC is working to move the State Health Plan’s oversight from the legislative to executive branch.

SEANC, SEIU Local 2008 is the South’s leading state employees’ association 55,000 members strong.

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