



LEGISLATIVE *Update*

State Employees Association of North Carolina • www.seanc.org

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June 18, 2010

Volume 27, Issue 6

SEANC to Wray and Holliman – A Little Less Talk and a Lot More Action

No vote allowed! This week House Bill 2037, a bill sponsored by Reps. Nelson Dollar (R-Wake), Pat Hurley (R-Randolph) and Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke) was denied a vote in the House Insurance Committee. The bill would move State Health Plan (SHP) oversight to the Department of Insurance and remove all control from the legislature where it appears political favoritism and lack of oversight has led to financial crisis for the SHP.

It seems when it comes to the SHP, breaking up is hard to do for Majority Leader Hugh Holliman (D-Davidson), one of two people in control of the SHP oversight and a member of the House Insurance Committee. The measure was discussed in the insurance committee on June 17, after House leadership made it clear there would be no vote on the bill.

House Insurance Committee Co-Chairman Bruce Goforth (who lost his primary election), opened discussion of the SHP oversight transfer bill stating how much he personally dislikes it and that there would be no vote that day. Goforth said the bill would be presented for purely informational purposes. House Insurance Committee Co-Chairman Michael Wray (D-Vance) committed to SEANC to hear the SHP oversight transfer bill in committee and was responsible for placing it on the calendar for a hearing. SEANC is looking to Wray to bring the bill back for a vote this week.

Holliman and Rep. Van Braxton (D-Lenoir) repeatedly urged the committee to do nothing and allow the State Health Plan Blue Ribbon Task Force to keep discussing things. Audits conducted by the State Auditor and Navigant Consulting BOTH asserted that the legislature needs to move oversight to an executive branch agency. So why after six months of study do Holliman and Braxton need more time? How many times does the task force have to be told the SHP oversight needs to move? Of course, it's easy to stall when moving oversight of the SHP means giving up potentially thousands in insurance campaign contributions.

Time is of the essence because the SHP is financially suffering under the General Assembly. Before long it will be time to negotiate a new SHP contract. If the SHP doesn't transfer all legislative control, we could end up with another sweetheart, no-bid contract like we have with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina which allows anything to be charged to the SHP (including CEO compensation, board fees and retainers, retreats and food, travel and corporate sponsorships) -- while your benefits are cut and dependent coverage stays priced out of reach.

Call Wray today (919-733-4111) and tell him we don't need the Insurance Committee to talk – we need them to vote!

PLEASE POST AND SHARE IN YOUR WORKPLACE
