



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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October 26, 2011

TO: Health Care Coalition Unions

FROM: Marty Brown *MB*
Director

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REOPEN 2011-13 HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AGREEMENT

On September 15, 2011, the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council released its latest revenue forecast for the 2011-13 biennium. Under the new forecast, projected General Fund revenue is down by about \$1.41 billion for the biennium. This drop in revenue is on top of the \$4.6 billion in reductions that the Governor signed into law following the 2011 legislative session.

Due to the continuing decline in revenue, the State is requesting that the coalition of unions agree to reopen the 2011-13 health care benefits agreement in order to negotiate a reduction in the employer premium contribution. Please send your response to our request to Diane Leigh, Director of the Labor Relations Office, at diane.leigh@ofm.wa.gov.

The Governor holds in high esteem the dedicated women and men who devote their careers to serving the people of this great state, and she understands the strain that budget reductions have had on the workforce of state agencies and institutions of higher education. However, because of the seemingly unrelenting pressure that the Great Recession has had on revenues and increased caseloads, state employees may be called upon yet again to sacrifice. The Governor and I are confident that our employees will help us meet this challenge.

cc: Diane Leigh, Director, Labor Relations Office

