

**Assemblymembers Torrico, Krekorian, Hernandez Issue
Joint Statement on
Layoffs and Furloughs of State Employees by Governor**

SACRAMENTO – Majority Leader Alberto Torrico (D-Newark), Assistant Majority Leader Paul Krekorian (D-Burbank) and the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina) issued the following joint statement after Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger laid off and furloughed California state employees:

“Coming on the heels of his threatening to reject Democrats’ \$18 billion in budget solutions, today’s action by the governor laying off and furloughing workers adds insult to injury for the state’s economy. Democrats are focused on creating jobs. The governor is focused on eliminating them.

“The governor needs to bargain with his workforce – the way he says he wants to whenever he vetoes legislation to protect them. In a crisis of this size, everyone is going to share in the pain, but that doesn’t mean you abandon the bargaining process. As part of our budget solutions we included more than half a billion dollars in reduced employee compensation, but we grasped the obvious: the best way to accrue savings while preserving important services is to allow management and employees to participate.

“The governor has shown he can’t negotiate with Republicans, he doesn’t negotiate with Democrats, and now he’s refusing to negotiate with employees. It’s the same lack of leadership that has kept him from coming up with a single vote for any budget solution. And now that lack of leadership has resulted in his making a scapegoat of employees who are not the source of the problem.

“Arnold Schwarzenegger may be Hollywood royalty, but that doesn’t make California a monarchy. Part of his core responsibility is to negotiate deals with employees. As the governor himself has said, “if the State of California is to have good faith collective bargaining, then employee wages, hours, and terms and conditions must not be legislated.” Nor should policy derive from executive fiat. Predictably now, instead of doing the real work and fulfilling his duties in negotiating with state workers, the governor just issues yet another executive order.

“Not only does he have a dysfunctional relationship with his own party and a dysfunctional relationship with the legislature, he also appears to have a dysfunctional relationship with himself.

Workers’ rights are fundamental to a viable middle class and a strong economy. We invite the governor to throw away his props and gimmicks, discard his tired rhetoric and sit down to start the real work of governing.”

Website of Majority Leader Torrico: www.asm.ca.gov/torrico

Website of Assistant Majority Leader Paul Krekorian: www.asm.ca.gov/krekorian

Website of Assemblymember Ed Hernandez: www.asm.ca.gov/hernandez

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