

SEIU LOCAL 1000



California's largest union of state employees

Dec. 7, 2009

Contact: Jim Herron Zamora 916.690.003

Rally to protest gutting of prison rehab programs

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 8

TIME: 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

WHERE: South steps of state Capitol

WHAT: Teachers, former prison inmates & rehabilitation workers will protest plans to cut inmate rehabilitation programs by more than half.

A coalition of more than 200 state teachers, former prison inmates and rehabilitation experts will rally at 10 a.m. Tuesday (Dec. 8) on the south steps of the Capitol to protest state plans to cut by half the educational programs that rehabilitate prison inmates and prepare them for life outside prison.

In January, the state plans to lay off nearly 900 of the 1,400 teachers and vocational instructors in the state prison system. This decision comes even though education has proven to reduce the chance that inmates will commit new crimes after their release. Prison education pays for itself. The state pays about \$49,000 a year to house, feed and guard each of the 170,000 inmates in state prison. For every two inmates who do not commit new crimes and return to prison after their release, the state saves more than enough money to pay the salary of one teacher.

After the rally and news conference, participants will be speaking at two separate hearings by different legislative committees on plans to cut prison education.

They are:

- **Select Committee for Women and Children in the Criminal Justice System**
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 8, Room 3191, Chair Sen. Carol Liu
- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 4**
1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 8, Room 447, Chair Asm. Juan Arambula

The cuts proposed by the state will not pay for themselves. SEIU Local 1000 is proposing that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation hold off on making these cuts until more research can be done to determine exactly which programs are more effective and to consider other cost-savings alternatives, such as reducing the length of the school year.

Service Employees International Union Local 1000, is the largest union of state employees representing more than 96,000 people, including white-collar professionals, planners, clerical workers, auditors, information technology professionals, teachers, printers, librarians, custodians and nurses.