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State Employees Seek Pay Raise Despite Rising Unemployment and Poor Performance

AUSTIN, TEXAS— *the following statement may be attributed to Wayne Christian, President of the Texas Conservative Coalition, regarding the Texas State Employees Union “Lobby Day” on April 8, 2009:*

“As state employees lobby the Legislature today for higher pay and ‘secure retirement’, they do so with a callous disregard for the 100,000-plus Texans who have lost their jobs this year due to the economic crisisⁱ.

“State employees have secure jobs which they can hardly expect to lose through firings or layoffs, unlike people who work in the private sector. Yet, the Texas State Employees Union continues to demand more from taxpayers even as Texans lose jobs and families are forced to cut back.

“The Texas Conservative Coalition has repeatedly called for state government to limit spending and cut taxes to keep the economy as healthy as possible in these tough economic times. To force taxpayers to contribute more of their hard-earned money to state employees -- who as a whole are repeatedly embroiled in scandal and crisis -- is unacceptable any time, but especially in the current economy.

“There are many fine, hard-working public servants in state government. But state workers should not receive a blanket pay increase as TSEU demands until the Legislature gets to the bottom of well-publicized and increasingly disturbing reports of mismanagement, neglect, and even crimes perpetuated by state employees.”

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ⁱ Texas Comptroller’s Economic Outlook, updated April 3, 2009