



North Carolina General Assembly
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
June 5, 2013

Via: **Hand Delivery**

Governor Pat McCrory
State of North Carolina
State Capitol
One East Edenton St
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Governor McCrory:

With this letter, we would like to bring to your attention an issue of grave concern for myself and many of our colleagues: the issuance of talking points by your administration to General Assembly staff without notice to or approval from legislative leaders.

As members of the House and Senate Democratic Caucuses, we reserve the right to respond to constituents at our discretion, without undue outside influence or intimidation of our employees.

As a result of the passage of HB 4 in February of this year, nearly 70,000 jobless North Carolinians will begin to lose benefits on June 30. Make no mistake: the loss of these benefits will hurt already-struggling families across this state and cause justifiable outrage among those affected.

In anticipation of public outcry, General Assembly legislative assistants were summoned to a meeting held by Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Dale Folwell, in which they were given talking points on how to respond to angry callers. These talking points did not direct callers to individuals with the authority to change this policy, but said merely to acknowledge the loss of benefits without explanation or assignment of responsibility. In short, these talking points provided political cover for the McCrory administration and legislators who support cutting the benefits.

We find it highly inappropriate for any office of your administration to seek to dictate the actions of our staff without our consent or knowledge and hope your office will offer notification to legislators before conducting any such meetings in the future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr.

Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr.
Democratic Leader
North Carolina Senate

Handwritten signature of Larry D. Hall.

Larry D. Hall
Democratic Leader
North Carolina House

CC: Sharon Decker, Secretary of Commerce
Dale Folwell, Assistant Secretary of Commerce