

Law Offices of
Slesnick & Casey, LLP

2701 FONCE DE LEON BOULEVARD

SUITE 200

Coral Gables, Florida 33134-6020

DONALD D. SLESNICK II
CERTIFIED IN LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW
CERTIFIED CIRCUIT COURT MEDIATOR
donslesnick@scllp.com

FAX (305) 448-5685
TEL (305) 448-5672

JAMES C. CASEY
FLORIDA SUPREME COURT
CERTIFIED CIRCUIT COURT MEDIATOR
jimcasey@scllp.com

February 11, 2010

Senator Jeremy Ring
Co-Chair
(Via Facsimile (850) 487-5394)

Representative Robert C. Schenck
Co-Chair
(Via Facsimile (850) 414-5048)

Re: Hearing Before the Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining
Florida Nurses Association and State of Florida

Dear Senator Ring and Representative Schenck:

This office represents the Florida Nurses Association (FNA) which, as you are aware, is the certified collective bargaining agent for the health care professionals employed by the State.

The FNA has received your February 8th notice of the statutorily-mandated impasse hearing scheduled for Monday, February 15th.

Presently, the FNA is engaged in contract negotiations with the Governor (as required by statute), and is hopeful that the bargaining is not at final "impasse" (as that term is commonly understood in the field of labor relations). Therefore, the FNA does not intend to appear in person at the Committee's hearing, but reserves its statutory rights to pursue an equitable resolution to such an impasse, should that occur at a later date.

As the Legislature moves forward to its 2010 session, the FNA urges all members of the Senate and the House to consider carefully the needs of their state-employed health care professionals. Registered Nurses, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Community Health Nurses, Psychologists, Dentists and Nutritionists are critical providers of the State's mandated services to its citizens and its wards. These professionals are in short supply and the demand for their talent is high. While the FNA appreciates the financial situation in which the State finds itself; it must strongly suggest that there are special considerations within this employee group which must be assertively addressed this year. Whether or not the Governor's budget responds to those needs, then the legislature should do so.

Senator Jeremy Ring
Co-Chair
(Via Facsimile (850) 487-5394)

Representative Robert C. Schenck
Co-Chair
(Via Facsimile (850) 414-5048)

The FNA thanks the Committee for its service in such an important capacity which, in the end, will help to create productive results for all concerned.

Sincerely,



DONALD D. SLESNICK II

cc: Deborah Hogan, R.N., State Unit President, *Via Facsimile (561) 841-8578*
Leslie Homsted, Director Professional Practice Advocacy, FNA, *Via Facsimile (407) 896-9042*
Joint Select Committee Staff, *Via Facsimile (850) 414-5048*
Michael Mattimore, Esquire, Attorney for DMS, *Via Facsimile (850) 561- 0332*

Sent by Federal Express Airbill #8718-0335-2972 to:
The Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining
525 Knott Building
The Florida Legislature
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100