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SEIU Local 1000 to Governor Newsom: Cease and Desist

SACRAMENTO, CA (July 28, 2021) — In a direct violation of the Ralph C. Dills Act, on Monday Governor Gavin Newsom issued a mandate requiring all state employees to provide proof of vaccination status or be subjected to weekly testing. According to the Governor’s plan, State departments are instructed to collect and maintain evidence of employee vaccination and be within full compliance by August 2.

In response, SEIU Local 1000 delivered a Cease-and-Desist letter to CalHR demanding the State come to the bargaining table over the Governor’s plan to change working conditions for nearly 100,000 SEIU Local 1000 represented state employees.

The Governor’s press conference did not specify how his mandate would be implemented by State agencies and left the viewer wondering if this was a knee-jerk reaction to the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

“Last March, Governor Newsom was quick to issue a stay-at-home order in response to the growing COVID-19 pandemic, forcing thousands of state employees into teleworking full time. His actions today might suggest he is willing to risk the health and safety of state employees by having them return to the office,” said Richard Louis Brown, SEIU Local 1000 President. “I’m not willing to accept that risk at this time.”

The Ralph C. Dills Act (1977) provides for exclusive representatives in contractual negotiations over wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. Any changes to these conditions require the state and employee representatives to “meet and confer in good faith,” which has not yet happened.

“Governor Newsom has counted on support from organized labor for quite a while. It’s time Local 1000, and the other bargaining units, take a hard look if that support should continue,” said President Brown.

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