



## **He's Out of His Cage!<sup>1</sup>**

Today, May 25<sup>th</sup>, CWA met the State for the seventh negotiations session.

We finally received a proposal on health care from the State of New Jersey after CWA made numerous requests and took legal action.

The State presented its health care proposal, which is very similar to the Governor's public statements: all workers would pay up to 30% for health benefits for dependent coverage. They also proposed dramatic increases to co-pays, but also wanted the right to change copays at any time during the life of the agreement.

This kind of proposal is regressive and hurts lower paid workers and families. However, we will continue to bargain health care according to our principles of affordability and maintaining quality care.

Now that there is finally a proposal from the State, ***we will press for real bargaining to take place.***

The Governor claims publicly he is doing the right thing for taxpayers by stonewalling negotiations. What he is really doing is putting sound bites and youtube moments ahead of rational dialogue to solve an important budgetary issue. CWA has proven it is ready to bargain and has proposed a realistic proposal that protects our families and saves the State over 20% of the overall cost of premiums.

Our next session is May 31.

Please Note: A memo from OER to departments which clarifies our right to carry over PLB days at least into next year will be coming out shortly. We have appealed this matter to the Appellate Court as well.

### **BE THERE!**

**Rev. Jesse Jackson, Labor and Community Leaders will be attending Rallies/Events to call for Bargaining Rights, Budget Fairness and Health and Pension Rights!**

- Wed June 1      5 PM – 6 PM      Trenton War Memorial
- Wed June 1      12:30 PM – 1:30 PM      Newark, Military Park

<sup>1</sup> Mar 3, 2011 *Star Ledger* HILLSBOROUGH — Gov. Chris Christie doesn't want anyone to confuse him with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. Christie says he "loves" collective bargaining. "Let me at them," Christie said at a town hall meeting Wednesday in Hillsborough, referring to the state's public unions. "Get me out of the cage and let me go."