

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEVADANS "CALL OUT" GIBBONS ON PAY RAISES FOR STAFF

(LAS VEGAS) Workers and unemployed workers gather in front of the Grant Sawyer Building on Monday, March 23 at 12 noon to "call out" Governor Gibbons was giving his staff outrageous raises when unemployment is over 10%, and the Governor's budget calls for 6% pay cuts for state workers and teachers, and benefit cuts for retirees.

"The bottom line is that most of Gibbons staff is making more than the salaries that the Legislature approved for their positions," state Dennis Mallory, Chief of Staff of NV AFSCME. Mallory continued, "In these times, when most workplaces are in a hiring freeze, everyone is taking on extra duties – but most of us aren't getting paid for the extra work".

Lisa Dehart, a Welfare worker said, "Governor Gibbons doesn't get it. First he asks state employees to take a 6 percent pay cut, then he turns around and doubles the salary for some of his staff."

Kevin Ranft, a Corrections Officer pointed out that there are over 400 job vacancies in the prison system because of the jobs being frozen and that every one of the prison employees and officers are taking on extra duty in very dangerous conditions.

FACTS:

- Legislative Director Jodi Stephens makes \$103,382, up from \$50,196 in January 2007 and \$99,994 in April 2008. Her salary more than doubled since January 2007.
- Former Press Secretary Melissa Subbotin earned \$72,287. The current communications director/press secretary, Dan Burns makes \$109,996. That's an increase of 52 percent in that position.
- The former executive assistant to the chief of staff, Nicholas Vander Poel, earned \$40,152 in January 2007. He got a 50 percent raise to \$60,289 within six months.

"Gibbons has taken a page right out of the AIG book", commented Mallory.