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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EEOC CELEBRATES ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION DAY
BY FURLOUGHING ADMIN STAFF WHILE FUNDING CONTRACTS FOR TEMPS**

The Union that represents employees at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), including clerical staff, is calling out its agency for hypocrisy. In honor of today's Administrative Professionals Day, EEOC sent an email to staff saying, "Thank you for your contributions, dedication, and commitment to the goals and mission of the agency." This email comes the same week that EEOC began furloughing its employees in response to sequester cuts.

Even worse, the Union has learned EEOC is bringing on contract temps. According to Gabrielle Martin, the President of the National Council of EEOC Locals, No. 216, AFGE/AFL-CIO, "What a way to say thank you. It's like the EEOC took its clerical staff to lunch and then said: pay your own bill and go home without pay. Leave instructions for your work with the temps."

The Union is flabbergasted that EEOC claims that there is no other option but furloughs to make up for the sequester cuts, but then the agency can fund contract temporary clericals. Martin states, "Furloughing clericals and funding temps is detrimental to the livelihoods of our lowest earning agency employees. It is also inefficient for temps to do piecemeal assignments left behind by furloughed agency employees. This decision by EEOC reinforces what the Union has been saying all along, which is that EEOC is balancing its budget on the backs of its employees."

EEOC's decision to fund contract temps also flies in the face of OMB guidance issued to agency heads on January 14, 2013: "Agencies should generally adhere to the following guiding principles, to the extent practicable and appropriate, in preparing plans to operate with reduced budgetary resources in the event that sequestration occurs: identify the most appropriate means to reduce civilian workforce costs where necessary this may include . . . releasing temporary employees or not renewing term or contract hires." Says Martin, "Apparently, the model employer, EEOC, thinks this does not apply to them."

EEOC contracts are a sore point. Martin says, "The Union has requested information on contracts, but the disclosures are always incomplete. Why is EEOC playing hide the ball?"

The Union has learned that the EEOC gave full funding to its field programming departments. Martin says, "The root of the dumb spending is that EEOC's leadership does not have the courage to stand up to its fiefdoms. This is why we see field managers traveling instead of using videoteleconference equipment. This is why we see OHR flying to conduct audits in Miami and elsewhere, when the personnel files are now available electronically in Washington, D.C."

Council 216 recently went on the offensive by adding a BOLO (be on the look out) section to its members only Facebook page. States Martin, "Employees are letting us know about EEOC's wasteful spending that could better be used to avoid furloughs. No employees will be harder hit by furloughs than EEOC's own administrative professionals. EEOC should honor these employees by keeping them on the job and not making them take unpaid furloughs."