

# The Fight Goes On!

## A Movement is Born

When PEEHIP and the Teachers Retirement System announced deep, painful cuts to health and retirement benefits, Birmingham-AFT mobilized to fight. Thousands of teachers and paraprofessionals have met, signed petitions and reached out to their brothers and sisters across the state of Alabama. A movement has been born. The voice of educational professionals is being heard in Birmingham.

## A Powerful Message

Top leaders of the Alabama House and Senate, including Richard Lindsey, Chair of the House Education Budget Committee and Hank Sanders, Chair of the Senate Education Budget Committee, have heard our message.

**We have said loud and clear:** "Benefit cuts to educational professionals are not in the best interest of the children of Alabama. We must work hard to find alternatives to gutting the benefits of teachers and paraprofessionals. We will not accept having cuts to our medical insurance, our prescription drug program and our retirement dictated to us by PEEHIP and the TRS. We demand a seat at the table."

Our message has been heard and our strength recognized. We will continue to grow in numbers and power. We will continue to spread the message that we will not simply accept cuts to our benefits, no matter what PEEHIP and the TRS says.

## Time to Stand Together

Right now, the State Legislature is deciding the future of our health and retirement benefits. This is a crucial time. If you want to protect your health and retirement benefits now is the time to take action.

**Save the Date: Feb. 2, 2010**

### **MEETING ON BENEFITS CUTS**

**Where:** Birmingham AFT Union Hall (1901 10th Ave. South)

**When:** 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Contact Richard Franklin, at 205/252-2631, for more information.