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The following is a statement from Governor M. Jodi Rell regarding the Connecticut General Assembly Democrats' deficit mitigation proposal:

"The Democrats' plan is a disappointment on a number of levels. First it provides no early retirement plan for state workers, even though that was the reason they were going into session in the first place -- and they are taking \$22 million in savings for the plan they are not putting in place.

"Moreover, their plan contains few real cuts. No specific cuts, just \$5 million in unspecified contract savings, \$16 million in unspecified rescissions and an incredible \$200 million in unspecified savings from accounts that are depleted and largely restricted. They also pull the rug out from under local property taxpayers by cutting special education funds by \$8 million. They also hurt our job creation efforts by cutting \$20 million from the Connecticut Development Authority.

"They have had weeks to put together a real plan and this falls short. But it is a plan nonetheless, and I will continue to work with the Legislature to address our fiscal problems in a responsible, real way."