



## Office of Camden City Council

December 28, 2021

Lt. Governor & Commissioner Sheila Oliver  
Department of Community Affairs  
101 S. Broad Street  
PO Box 803  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0803

Dear Lt. Governor:

A recent audit conducted by the New Jersey State Comptroller's Office discovered a \$1.6 million analysis error made by Conner Strong & Buckelew, the insurance broker for Pennsauken Public Schools, a neighboring community to Camden.

In the audit's findings section, it clearly states: **"The District could have cut costs of at least \$1.6 million in FYs 2014 and 2015 by joining the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP)."**

Instead, Conner Strong & Buckelew chose to focus on their commissions and place the Pennsauken Public Schools in a more costly private plan. Moreover, the audit also points out that Conner Strong & Buckelew was **"Improperly paying employees \$95,000 in health benefit opt-out waivers, stipends, and unused accrued leave."**

We're writing today, as deeply concerned members of the city council, to ask one simple question: How can the city of Camden approve, and the state concur, with the appointment of Conner Strong & Buckelew to serve as the risk management consultant given the Comptroller's explosive audit and findings?

The Comptroller's audit has one theme throughout it: Conner Strong & Buckelew placed their own greed for profits over the financial interests of a public entity. And it's not even close.

As 2021 draws to a close, we're asking that you weigh-in on this important public issue like you have done so in the past.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your timely response.

Democratically,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Torres", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Marilyn Torres  
Councilwoman, Council Vice-President



Shaneka Boucher  
Councilwoman

Felisha Reyes-Morton  
Councilwoman

