

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**  
*One strong united voice for Minnesota workers*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 12, 2022

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**AFSCME Council 5 Condemns Ramsey County Board's Vote to Close Ramsey County Care Center**

**South St. Paul, MN** - AFSCME Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl released the following statement after the Ramsey County Board voted to close the Ramsey County Care Center:

"The vote taken by the Ramsey County Board to close the Ramsey County Care Center will be detrimental to our community who cares for those who need our love, care, and support in their latter years of life. We deplore the County Board's vote on March 8, 2022 to close the Care Center without any guarantees for where residents are supposed to live, where workers are supposed to work, and without any regard for the input of workers and our community members who reject this decision. This closure will exacerbate inequities within our community and is harmful to the family members who continue to place their faith and trust in the workers who care for their loved ones at the Ramsey County Care Center.

"Vulnerable and elderly Minnesotans are experiencing an already challenged long-term care industry with lack of open bed space for residents and low staffing levels. Our union will continue to support vulnerable Minnesotans and always put them first by supporting robust funding and assistance for our long-term care industry through the work being done by dedicated public service workers who put those they care for first."

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*AFSCME Council 5 is a labor union representing more than 43,000 workers across Minnesota. We advocate for excellence in services to the public, dignity in the workplace, and opportunity and prosperity for all workers.*