

AFSCME State Executive Branch Employees,

Many of our AFSCME siblings have received layoff notices in the mail and we wanted to explain the process and what our next steps are to ensure a state budget is in place that fully funds our services and invests in all of you that do the work. The Minnesota Legislature has not yet passed the biennial budget that funds our state agencies and policy language affecting them; therefore, a special legislative session is scheduled for June 14th. If an overall deal is not passed by June 30th, the state will be shut down beginning July 1.

It is very typical for Minnesota Management and Budget to send layoff notices beginning June 1 if no deal is signed before that date. As a result, with the potential of a shutdown, many state employees have received letters regarding possible layoffs due to a potential shutdown if no budget agreement is passed by June 30th.

We still remain optimistic that a budget agreement will be reached before June 30th and our union will continue our legislative advocacy and member activism at the Capitol to push our priorities. However, if a budget agreement is not reached, we all need to be prepared for a potential shutdown. The Minnesota Senate has often held firm to their harmful and arbitrary 5-7% agency budget cuts and policy language that would devastate our state services and harm state employees. You should never be treated as pawns in a political chess match and we need the Senate to drop their harmful proposals and come to an agreement with the House of Representatives and Governor Tim Walz to fully invest in public services and the workers who deliver them.

On Monday, May 24th, your elected AFSCME negotiations assembly unanimously approved a shutdown Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that mirrors the shutdown MOU language from 2011 in the event a shutdown happens.

Please continue to stay tuned for any additional calls to action and updates. Thank you for your service and for all that you do for all Minnesotans.

In solidarity,

Julie Bleyhl
Executive Director
AFSCME Council 5

AFSCME Council 5 is a union of more than 43,000 working Minnesotans from across the state. We advocate for excellence in services for the public, dignity in the workplace, and opportunity and prosperity for all workers.