

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

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**Minnesota Senate Republicans Walk Away from Addressing Minnesotans' Needs**

**South St. Paul, MN** - AFSCME Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl released the following statement after Minnesota Senate Republicans announced they are walking away from special session negotiations:

“AFSCME Council 5 condemns Minnesota Senate Republicans’ decision last night to walk away from special session negotiations, despite major framework agreement struck during the regular session; Their shameful decision shows indifference to working people by refusing to pass modest tax relief during times of high inflation, refusing to invest in public safety during times of high violent crime, and their decision will cause Minnesota to lose BILLIONS in readily-available federal infrastructure money. Their decision to not get their work done is wrong for Minnesota and continues to show the current Minnesota Senate majority’s tactic of stalling progress in our state's recovery and complete unwillingness to make a positive difference in the lives of working Minnesotans.

"The facts are clear. Minnesota Senate Republicans refused to fully fund a more significant and robust Frontline Worker Pay program, pass Paid Family and Medical Leave for all Minnesotans, a bonding bill that would have unlocked billions in federal funding and invest in our public buildings and critical infrastructure, and more. Minnesotans deserve and demand progress on the issues that will improve their lives. AFSCME Council 5 members do their job everyday with excellence, and we expect lawmakers to do their job on behalf of all of us. We will take note of Senate Republicans' inaction in the upcoming election and urge lawmakers to stop playing politics and get their work done to improve our lives."

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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.*