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AFSCME Council 5 Opposes Senate State Government Finance Bill

SOUTH SAINT PAUL - [AFSCME Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl](#) released the following statement after the Minnesota Senate passed a harmful state government finance bill off the floor last night:

"Last night, the Minnesota Senate continued their disrespectful and harmful attacks on state government employees and public service workers across our state. The Minnesota Senate passed a bill would arbitrarily cut agency budgets by 5-7%, gut our state's ability to hire more employees to respond to the pandemic and other significant challenges we face through a restriction on new hires, restrict our state's ability to recruit talented workers by proposing an arbitrary cap on the number of days a position may be open and then force agencies to close those positions, and legislation that interferes with our collective bargaining process and benefits under the state employee health insurance program.

"Instead of investing in safe staffing across our workplaces and our united recovery from the pandemic, Minnesota Senate Republicans are more focused on gutting state government at a time when our public service workers have kept our state functioning during the most difficult times we have experienced in generations. Workers deserve and demand respect and investments in their work and improving safety standards in all workplaces. They expect nothing less.

"We are grateful for the continued activism of our members in pushing legislation forward that will improve the lives of Minnesotans. AFSCME Council 5 is opposed to SF 1831 and urges lawmakers to heed to the calls of the working-class to invest in the public services that millions of Minnesotans depend on and the workers who deliver them. We will not recover from the pandemic without investing in the public service workers who "Make Minnesota Happen."

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