

Tell the MN Senate: Pass Our State Contracts NOW!

Last year, hundreds of AFSCME members engaged in a long process to negotiate with their employers and the State of Minnesota. It wasn't an easy process, but we worked together and won the contracts our members deserved.

Now, over a year later, Republicans in the Minnesota State Senate are inserting themselves in the collective bargaining process, threatening to cut workers' pay even as they risk their lives on the front lines of COVID-19.

We need YOU to reach out to your State Senator to send a message: stop playing games and pass our contracts now.

Find your State Senator here: www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts.

In Minnesota, we believe in taking care of each other and ensuring people in our state are well cared for and safe. State workers always step up and our members are on the frontlines helping Minnesotans battle the global pandemic.

Now is not the time to play political games with livelihoods of state workers who are doing so much to keep Minnesotans safe and government running during this critical time.

Tell the MN Senate - don't hold our contracts hostage for political gain.

We've seen this before; we know Republicans won't miss an opportunity to attack worker power, even in a global pandemic. Now is the time to fight back.

Republicans claim to care about the budget. But while they're reaching into the pockets of hardworking public employees, they're refusing to make corporations and the super-rich pay their fair share. While working families suffer, they're looking out for their big donors.

We need YOU to reach out to your State Senator and **demand that they respect the collective bargaining process**. Call your senator and tell them to pass our fair contracts now!

The Legislature has a duty and an obligation to vote on our contracts. But so far, they have refused to even bring our contract to a vote.

Our right to collectively bargain is sacred. This isn't just about one contract: we must send a message that our rights as workers are not up for discussion.

This year's legislative session is coming to a close. We need you to take action NOW to make sure our contracts are ratified before session ends.

Find your senator at www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts. **Don't wait - call now!**

Is This Your Senator?

If you live in these Senate Districts, we need you - and all your neighbors - to call your senator:

Justin Eichorn (District 5)

651-296-7079

Jerry Relph (District 14)

651-296-6455

sen.jerry.relph@senate.mn

Senator John Jasinski (District 24)

651-296-0284

Senator Jeremy Miller (District 28)

651-296-5649

sen.jeremy.miller@senate.mn

Senator Jim Abeler (District 35)

651-296-3733

sen.jim.abeler@senate.mn

Senator Karin Housley (District 39)

651-296-4351

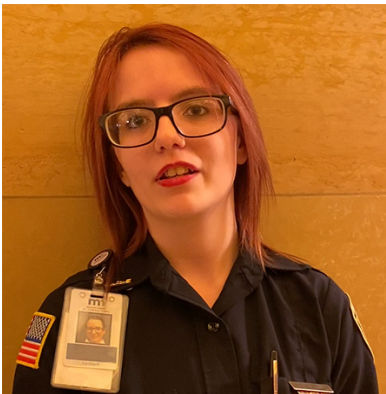
sen.karin.housley@senate.mn

Senator Eric Pratt (District 55)

651-296-4123

sen.eric.pratt@senate.mn

Your voice will make a difference. Call now!



Workers like Taylor, Zinnia, and Steve need your help to make sure our state contracts are ratified!

m Safely adjusting the dials

Walz: #StayHomeMN to #StaySafeMN

By staying home, Minnesotans successfully pushed out the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and bought our state time to get ready to treat those who fall ill.

We know there is no way to prevent COVID-19 from hitting Minnesota, and much work remains to protect all Minnesotans - especially our front-line workers - from the worst effects of this virus.

On Wednesday, Governor Tim Walz announced a new phase of the COVID-19 response effort.

Though the State of Emergency will continue, the Stay at Home order will be lifted on May 18. At that point, Minnesota will enter a new phase, which Governor Walz is calling #StaySafeMN.

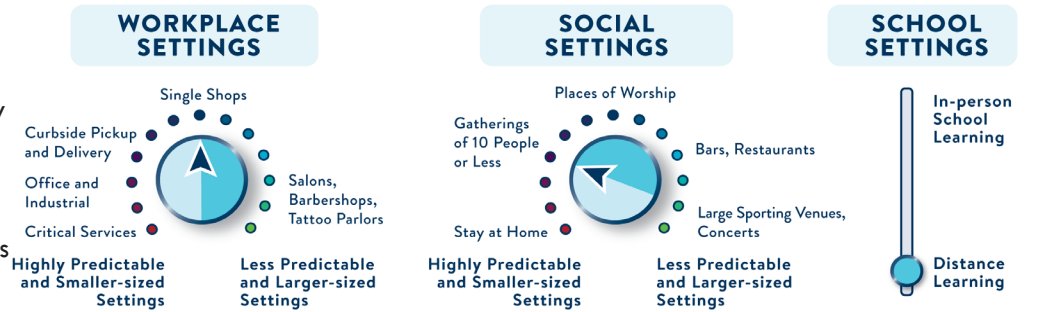
In this phase, Walz explained, we will slowly "move the dial" toward more interaction between people and businesses. AFSCME Council 5 recently released our economic plan to protect workers with businesses and offices potentially re-opening and can be read on our website at afscmemn.org.

Beginning May 18, non-critical businesses, like retail stores and main street businesses, can reopen if they have a social distancing plan and operate at 50 percent capacity. Additionally, the Walz-Flanagan Administration is assembling guidance on how to safely reopen bars, restaurants, barbershops, and salons beginning June 1.

Also, starting May 18, Minnesotans are welcome to gather with friends and family in groups of 10 or less with safe social distancing practices in place.

Governor Walz also announced a series of new Executive Orders, including one designed to protect workers who report unsafe working conditions from employer retaliation. The EO states that workers have a right to refuse to work in unsafe conditions and be protected from retaliation.

DLI can receive reports about unsafe



SAFE PRACTICES ON

- Wash your hands often
- Get tested if experiencing symptoms
- Maintain social distance
- Wear a mask
- Stay home when able

COVID-19 RESPONSE ON

- Test symptomatic individuals
- Isolate positive cases and contact trace
- Protect those at heightened risk
- Build needed hospital capacity
- Procure critical care supplies

Governor Walz extended Minnesota's Stay at Home order until May 4. You can help spread awareness by sharing the #StayHomeMN campaign on social media!

worksites and inspect unsafe worksites. If the employer does not take steps to make the worksite safe, the EO states that "if the worker...has given the employer a reasonable opportunity to correct such adverse work condition, to no avail, or has been retaliatory terminated from their employment as a result of exercising the worker rights... shall not lose unemployment insurance benefits eligibility."

You can read the entire executive order at mn.gov/covid19.

Despite these relaxed restrictions, we have a long way to go before the threat of COVID-19 abates.

It is more important than ever that we protect those most at risk, support workers, and do our part to slow the spread of the virus.

Please continue to:

- Wash your hands often
- Get tested when sick
- Maintain social distance
- Wear a mask
- Stay home when able

We also urge everyone to pay attention to their mental health. This is a stressful time for everyone, so please do not be afraid to seek help. You can find resources on our website at afscmemn.org/mentalbehavioral-health.

RSVP Now for Online AFSCME Mental Health Check Ins

Over the past year, your union siblings have convened Mental Health Summits to advocate for higher standards, better service and working conditions for all those affected with mental health issues.

The COVID-19 pandemic means that large in-person gatherings are no longer advisable. But now - more than ever - **we not only need to continue the work we've started, but make sure we are all connected.** It is our goal to make sure mental healthcare services be prepared as they can during and after this crisis.

On our website under the Mental/ Behavioral health tab you can sign up to join our weekly member-led mental health check ins **on Tuesdays at 9am!**

Resources for Members

Stay up to date on all the latest news by following @afscmemn5 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Get new guidance and resources at afscmemn.org under the COVID-19 tab.

Look for action alerts via email and text so you know when to take action to protect working families. We are all in this together.