

AFSCME Council 5 Leads Effort to Ban Private Prisons

Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl said, "Our union has long led the effort to ban private prisons in the State of Minnesota and last week House Majority Ryan Winkler introduced House File 1074 that would ban them from ever operating again in our state. We wholeheartedly support this legislation and will push for its passage."

"The CoreCivic, privately-owned, prison in Appleton, Minnesota remains a topic of discussion at the legislature, whether to buy it, lease it, or lease to own. We DO NOT support engaging in any way with CoreCivic. We support investing in our existing facilities to make them safe for staff so we can reduce recidivism and increase public safety. This mothballed, privately-owned prison in western Minnesota would stay mothballed forever if we ban their use in Minnesota Statute."

"Private prison corporations put shareholder profit over public safety and reducing recidivism. Their very business model is to push legislation that puts more people behind bars, for longer periods of time, without providing programming or security to make the facility safe or that provides an environment that will reduce prison re-entry."

Join us in advocating to pass House File 1074!

2021 AFSCME Council 5 Day on the Hill

Our virtual 2021 Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 9, 2021. While many organizations have canceled their days on the hill as a result of the legislature working remotely, we believe we have the capacity, will and determination from our members to never take a break from advocating in the halls of power for our shared priorities -together.

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Thank you Majority Leader Ryan Winkler for introducing HF 1074 that would ban the use of private prisons in the State of Minnesota.

Our union has proudly led the effort with you for years to ban these immoral, costly, and unjust corporations who put shareholder profit over public safety.

Your tenacity in the pursuit of justice is truly admirable!

JULIE BLEYHL
Executive Director
AFSCME Council 5



#AFSCMEC5Proud
#BanPrivatePrisons



Call your State Representative and Senator and tell them to support HF 1074 and ban private prisons in our state once and for all.

Members can sign up to attend our virtual Day on the Hill by signing into Memberlink locating the "Events" tab, > List of Events > DOTH 2021 and submit your registration. Workshops will begin on March 9th at 9:45AM and our general session will begin at 10:30AM with special guests! Call our Member Action Center at 651-450-4990 if you need help.

We need an "all hands on deck" approach to our legislative agenda, as our state faces budget and health crises that impact all of our lives. We must fight to protect our pensions and our health care, prevent layoffs by investing in our state agencies and local governments, taxing the rich and most profitable corporations, paid family and medical leave, ban private prisons, and so much more.

We're calling on the AFSCME Green Machine to (virtually) come out in full force on March 9th!

City of Plymouth Local 3445 Members Reach TA

Members of Local 3445 have reached a tentative agreement with their employer that includes:

2.5% wage adjustment in 2021, 3% in 2022, and 2.75% in 2023.

4 holiday hours were added for Christmas Eve.

40 hours of paid parental leave are provided.

50/50 split on family insurance increases.

All employees to cash-out up to their full comp time bank at the end of December.

These victories represent historic wage adjustments for the local and protect members from burdensome health insurance increases.

Congratulations, siblings!

Saint Paul Public School Members of Local 844 Reach MOU with Employer

The employer agreed to strong COVID-19 pandemic health guidance measures, including creating an online reporting system, isolation protocol, and following all Executive Orders and MN Department of Health (MDH) guidelines and recommendations.

Employees will not be retaliated against for their COVID-19 test results or quarantine status.

Employer agreed to provide COVID-19 testing sites to any AFSCME bargaining unit employees within the SPPS system with in-person schooling.

Employer will require face masks to be worn and will provide necessary PPE and masks for staff, every classroom to be provided unscented hand sanitizer, and daily cleaning of high traffic areas will be implemented.

Congratulations, siblings!

New AFSCME Siblings at the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

As a result of a Council 5 and local organizing committee accretion campaign, "family advocates" were added to the union contract and will be receiving nearly a 3% raise.

Welcome, siblings, and congratulations!

Child Care Leave Victory

The Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) provides leave at 2/3 pay in the event a child care setting or school closed due to a COVID outbreak and an eligible employees needs to provide care for a child. The FFCRA mandated this leave for organizations with over 50 employees to provide this leave to all eligible workers and expired in December 2020.

Council 5 and local rank-and-file members voiced our concern to the US House and Senate to extend the FFCRA for all eligible workers. Congress extended the Act through the end of March 2021.

However, this leave is now up to the employer whether they offer it or not. After months of advocacy, discussions and calling/emailing campaign to county commissioners, workers in Hennepin County (HC) secured a resolution providing 160 hours of leave at 2/3 pay for Hennepin County workers who need to provide child care to their

children. This resolution also defined and extended the use of negative leave balances for HC workers with more than four years of service to forgive up to 240 hours after the official end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

AFSCME Members Receive COVID-19 Vaccine

Many of our AFSCME brothers and sisters have received their COVID-19 vaccine!

More than 675,329 front line workers and high-risk Minnesotans have now received their first dose of the vaccine and more than 238,000 have completed their second required dose of the vaccine series. MDH and health officials continue to monitor new strains of the COVID-19 virus.

AFSCME Family Picnic Postponed

Members of the AFSCME Family Picnic Planning Committee have decided to cancel our plan for a picnic to be held in 2021 out of an abundance of caution for our members and the public.

Planning committee members intend to organize, with the help of other Council 5 siblings, an incredible union family picnic in 2022.



Jen Guertin, Local 2508, was proud to receive her first vaccine dose

Protecting Pensions Campaign

Politicians often politicize our pensions by trying to divert and micromanage our pension funds or take away our defined-benefit pension and move to a 401(k) plan. AFSCME Council 5's position is clear: Do not touch our pensions. We will not tolerate any micromanagement of our pension funds.

If you are interested in participating in this campaign, please email Council 5 Public Affairs and Political Action Director Max Hall at Max.Hall@afscmemn.org, who will work with you to record a short video and put a face to our pensions.

Resources for Members

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

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

Be well and stay safe.