



Good Evening,

A bit ago, the Governor announced a big change in the state's telework policy that will affect our union members. The change will affect workers in most state agencies and require them to work in-person for at least 50% of scheduled workdays beginning June 1, 2025. The policy change also provides an exemption for employees who live more than 75 miles away from their primary work location.

We wanted to give you the facts as we know them right now and how your union is asserting our rights immediately and advocating for our members every step of the way.

We are committed to protecting your rights and ensuring your voice is heard in the process.

That is why your union exists: To fight for you and your rights!

Action:

IF YOU TELEWORK - [Please click this link and SHARE YOUR STORY](#) and tell us how teleworking is a benefit to you so we can amplify your story. Direct Link: <https://www.afscmemn.org/share-your-story>. Our Communications staff will follow-up with you to hear your story and share it.

Here's what your union is doing right now to advocate for affected state workers:

- **Requesting Crucial Data:** We have already submitted a data request to the employer to obtain the exact list of affected workers and from which agencies. Getting these details is critical in understanding the full impact on our members and our ways forward.

- **Member Communications:** We will keep sending updates to state employees, making it clear that we are engaged on this issue and that we will not allow decisions to be made without our members' voices at the table. The employer's unilateral decision is unacceptable and disrespectful.

- **Meeting With MMB:** We have a meeting scheduled with Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) tomorrow, where we will assert our members' concerns and ideas and fight for a fair process that respects and protects the rights of our members who telework. We will also stress our continued frustration with our members not being brought into policy-making decisions on the front-end.

We will remain vigilant and stand up for your rights. Even for those who do not telework, it is important that we are in solidarity with one another because any other policy changes could affect you or other workers, too, at any point in the future.

AFSCME Council 5 Executive Director Bart Andersen said:

"Let me be perfectly clear: as Executive Director of AFSCME Council 5, representing more than 18,000 state employees, we will not tolerate unilateral changes to our members' work. The Administration's decision to impose sweeping workplace policy changes without engaging our union and labor partners first is not just unacceptable—it's an act of blatant disrespect. Our union members must have and deserve a seat at the table every step of the way. We are demanding full transparency and meaningful dialogue immediately. AFSCME Council 5, alongside our fellow labor union partners, will do whatever it takes to defend our members' rights, safeguard their ability to work safely and effectively, and continue delivering high-quality public services for all Minnesotans."

If you receive any information related to these changes—emails, notices, or official communications from your management—please forward them to your Council 5 Field Representative. Keeping us informed will help us address problems more quickly and effectively. If you do not know your Field Rep, call our Member Action Center M-F; 8am-5pm.

Thank you for your support and your dedication to public service! Together, we're union strong.

In solidarity,

Crystal Kreklow
State Field Director
AFSCME Council 5

Connect with AFSCME Council 5:

