

Republican Attack on Collective Bargaining Rights Defeated

In just three days, AFSCME members stopped a GOP attempt to cripple the right of state employees to bargain wage increases and health insurance.

Language inserted in the Omnibus State Finance Bill last minute during the special session would have forced us to negotiate with the Legislature, making it nearly impossible to get a fair contract.

Those changes were voted out of the bill by the Senate May 25, and the entire bill passed both the Senate and House.

AFSCME beat back the attempt to take away our bargaining rights and turn us into Wisconsin through concerted member action. Council 5 members had a constant and visible presence at the Capitol all session, especially during the four-day special session.

Members in green AFSCME T-shirts stayed late into the night all week, packing House and Senate galleries, talking to lawmakers and carrying "AFSCME is watching" signs. They made hundreds of calls to the Governor and legislators. They attended rallies with our allies in labor, the faith community, transit and community groups that packed the Rotunda and sent chants thundering through the Capitol.

"Politicians better know one thing: We are watching and we will hold them accountable for cuts that hurt working people," says Council 5 executive director Eliot Seide.



AFSCME members celebrate the defeat of a Wisconsin-style anti-union provision May 25 with several of the lawmakers who supported labor this session, including DFL House minority leader Melissa Hortman (center).

State Paid Parental Leave Is Back

State workers in the executive branch, both mothers and fathers, can once again take up to six weeks of paid parental leave.

The benefit had expired May 22 when the Republican-controlled Legislature adjourned. But during the special session, GOP leaders tacked reinstatement of parental leave for state workers onto a completely unrelated bill known as preemption. They wanted to force the Governor to choose between parental leave, and paid sick and safe time for 150,000 workers.

But that GOP maneuvering backfired. Check out the Governor's veto letter for an explanation:

http://mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/2017_05_30_Chapter_02.pdf.

Local Wins Big Contract

Local 9 (City of Minneapolis) petitioned the mayor's office and highlighted pay equity issues during candidate screenings to win a contract with a 7 percent wage increase across the board over three years. The contract addresses internal inequity issues for underpaid job classes and fixes the step structure. It also includes increases in longevity pay, the weekend differential and the uniform and safety shoe allowances. The average overall wage increase over the life of the contract is 16.9 percent.

Safe Staffing Gains Funding

All the hard work by AFSCME members fighting for Safe Staffing in our state mental health and correctional facilities has paid off.

After years of meeting with lawmakers, testifying, attending rallies, making hundreds of phone calls and speaking up in the workplace, members won bonding and funding to help improve the quality of mental health services and make workers and patients safer.

BONDING:

- \$70 million to expand the Security Hospital in St. Peter.
- \$27 million to improve Sex Offender Treatment facilities in Moose Lake and St. Peter.
- \$7.5 million for a new Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services facility in Willmar.
- \$2.25 million for safety renovations at Anoka Regional Treatment Center.
- \$19 million for a new intake unit at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in St. Cloud.

FUNDING TO HIRE MORE STAFF:

- \$22 million for St. Peter Security Hospital.
- \$10 million for MSOCS group homes.
- Funding to operate the new CABHS facility in Willmar.

The bonding bill also includes:

- \$100.36 million for human services.
- \$101 million for economic development.
- \$116 million for water infrastructure.



AFSCME members were watching all session long. That paid off for Safe Staffing. Thanks to Local 404 member Marvin Sullivan, DHS Commissioner Emily Johnson Piper and Eric Hesse, second vice president of Local 404.

- \$212 million for higher education to make campus improvements.
- \$255 million for transportation to replace or repair bridges, roads and railroad crossings.

Victory for Local Control

AFSCME and our allies successfully pushed back against a GOP attempt that would have stopped local governments from making life better for workers.

Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed the GOP effort to strip 150,000 workers in Minneapolis and Saint Paul of paid sick time starting July 1. Republicans also would have prohibited communities from raising the minimum wage.

Read Dayton's veto: http://mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/2017_05_30_Chapter_02.pdf.

AFSCME Stands with Teachers

AFSCME stands in solidarity with Education Minnesota, which is fighting an attack on our public schools and our kids.

The GOP passed a harmful teacher licensure overhaul that will grant a teaching license to people with no formal training in education.

We applaud Gov. Dayton for trying to pressure Republicans into reversing the attack on teacher quality.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. Download a copy to post on your workplace bulletin board at www.afscmemn.org or share news by emailing: Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
AFSCME Family Picnic	Aug. 20, 1 to 5 p.m.	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
AFSCME Council 5 Annual Convention	Oct. 5 to 7	Duluth Entertainment Convention Center