

AFSCME Council 5

State Employee Bargaining Report • May 10, 2017



Health Care We Can Afford to Use

A strong coalition of 10 unions began health insurance negotiations with the State of Minnesota this month. Our goal is health care that state employees and their families can afford to use, says chief negotiator Jo Pels.

The state reports that premiums will increase \$104 million over the next two years—and **the employer wants to shift \$72 million of that increase onto state employees. That's unacceptable.**

The high cost of coverage is driven by the insurance industry and pharmaceutical giants, not by our overuse of medical care.

The employer proposes increasing our premiums in 2018. For example, singles would have to pay \$66.48 each month instead of \$33.24. Families would have to pay \$324.53 a month instead of \$226.77.

Under this proposal, the employer shifts \$32.4 million onto state employees, making health care unaffordable for many of us.

Worse yet, the employer would also shift an additional \$39.4 million onto state employees by increasing our out-of-pocket costs and our copays for prescription drugs and office visits.

Clearly, there's a disconnect between the employer's disrespectful proposal and Governor Dayton's respectful budget, which funds our wages and benefits.

Our health insurance plan covers 143,546 lives. Every one of those people matter to us. Rest assured our union coalition won't leave anyone behind when we return to the table to bargain health care on May 24-25.

At the Table

April 10: Contract negotiations opened with language proposals.

April 26-27: Employer rejected all of our language proposals.

April 26: AFSCME presented 33 inequity proposals. No response yet from the employer.

May 1 – June 5: Multi-union Insurance Coalition bargains health care.

May 15: Next round of negotiations.

June 19-23: Push Week to negotiate wages and other economic proposals.

Take Action

Text **CUTSHURT** to **237263** to be connected to your state legislators.

Or call your senator at **1-888-907-2053** and representative at **1-877-395-0968**.

ASK THEM TO: Please support Governor Dayton's budget. Republican budget cuts will hurt Minnesota families.