

# AFSCME Council 5

State Employee Bargaining Report • June 12, 2017



## Show Us the Money! Push Week: June 19-23

Your union negotiators have made progress on issues related to recruitment, retention and respect.

Now, it's time to talk money during Push Week, June 19-23. You've told us that you want to get ahead with a fair wage increase and health care you can afford to use. That's our goal during the final week of negotiations.

Coalition bargaining for health insurance now moves to Push Week.

The state reports that health insurance premiums will increase \$104 million over the next two years. The employer wants to shift the lion's share of those costs—\$72 million—onto state employees. That's unreasonable because the high cost of coverage is driven by the insurance industry and pharmaceutical giants, not by our overuse of medical care.

AFSCME's Master Team has blocked harmful plan design changes that would hurt the sickest workers. For example, we stopped the employer from capping medical leave at one year per illness. Under this proposal, a worker would be denied leave for a relapse of cancer. A second bout with cancer is common and the patient shouldn't be punished for it.

AFSCME also beat back the employer's proposal to eliminate benefits for intermittent employees. Under this proposal, workers who are scheduled less than full-time and don't have regular work hours would lose their sick leave, vacation and holiday pay.

We also rejected a proposal that would restrict flexibility for union activity.

Please be visible and vocal in your workplace to help your union team win a fair contract.

## Minnesota is Best Because We Do the Work

Best State for  
Job Creation

#2  
Best Run State

#3  
Best State

Best State  
for Women

Best State  
to be a Kid

Best States  
for Business

## Take Action

There are two things you can do to help your negotiating team win a fair contract:

- ♦ Show solidarity by wearing AFSCME green during Push Week (June 19-23).
- ♦ Tell your supervisor that you deserve respect, a raise and affordable health care.