



More than 90 correctional workers from across Minnesota attended Corrections Lobby Day last week. They asked legislators to support their work, ban private prisons and let them retire with dignity. Get the details at: <http://afscmemn.org/story/correctional-workers-blanket-capitol-blue-uniforms>. Check out photos at: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/afscmemn/Q24q3S>.

## Bring a Buddy to DOTH

Day on the Hill is nearly here, and there's double the swag to choose from this year! If you register and bring a friend, you'll each get a travel mug or an AFSCME scarf, all while protecting the future for workers, our families and our communities.

Hundreds of AFSCME members will rally at the



Capitol in the beautifully restored rotunda **Tuesday, March 28**. Many locals charter buses, and you're encouraged to ride with them.

We'll ask legislators to protect our pensions, reinvest in the work we do, fix transportation, staff up for safe workplaces, ban private prisons, make education affordable and fund child protection.

To register, call Deb Smith at (651) 287-0543 or go online: <http://afscmemn.org/doth17>.

## Support HCMC Workers

Hennepin County Medical Center is laying off 131 workers. Please march with us **Friday** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. from the corner of Chicago Avenue and S. 6th St. to stop the layoffs and the outsourcing of AFSCME's work.

The brunt of the layoffs will impact members of our union. We are schedulers, custodians, pharmacy and accounting staff. The way we got our pink slips was unfair and disrespectful, with reckless disregard for our union contract and our input. We're deeply concerned the elimination of our positions will compromise the quality of care that patients deserve. HCMC's greatest asset is its frontline staff. <http://afscmemn.org/event/rally-hcmc-workers>.

## STOP TAX BREAKS FOR BILLIONAIRES AND BIG CORPORATIONS

Now that Gov. Dayton has turned Minnesota's budget deficit into a surplus, it's time to reinvest in the work we do and create a Minnesota where everyone can prosper.

But Republicans have already introduced a slew of bad bills to give tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations – all at the expense of workers.

One bad bill would repeal the estate tax for wealthy families who inherit more than a million dollars. Even worse is a Republican plan to phase out corporate property taxes, with a whopping price tag of \$1.5 billion. More than half that tax relief would leave our state.

Of course, we all want our Minnesota businesses to prosper. But helping the rich get richer at the expense of the middle class is unfair and irresponsible. It's a scheme that would break the bank and put our state back on a budget rollercoaster. Don't let them slash wages, abolish pensions, outsource jobs and gut public services.

Text **SURPLUS to 237263** to be connected to your legislators. Or call your state senator at **1-855-974-4273** and your representative at **1-855-402-6561**.

### ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:

Stop the tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations. Helping the rich get richer at the expense of hardworking families is simply wrong.



Kim Johnson, a Unit 6 state master negotiating team member, holds a sign at the Delegate Assembly on March 10 representing disrespect. The sign's flip side shows measures of respect such as safe staffing and pension security. Workers will post the signs in their workplaces as a barometer of how state Executive Branch contract negotiations are going. Members can order these signs at <http://afscmemn.org/content/state-minnesota>.

## Debunking Tax Claims

The GOP is pushing to trim or eliminate the statewide business tax, but that would be a mistake for Minnesota. The North Star Policy Institute think tank says businesses already get a big property tax

break, thanks to the 2001 tax act. Eliminating that tax would cost our state an estimated \$1.732 billion in fiscal year 2020-21, pushing us backward into deficit spending. <http://northstarpolicy.org/winning-big-isnt-enough/>.

## City/County Hockey Game

Workers, officials and volunteers from Saint Paul and Ramsey County will face off at the 4th Annual Northland Cup. The event benefits victims of domestic violence. It's **Saturday, March 18** at 12:30 p.m. at the Charles M. Schulz-Highland Arena, Saint Paul.

## Bowl for Labor

Registration is open for the Seventh Annual Labor Bowl on **April 27** at Midway Pro Bowl in Saint Paul. Teams bowl to raise money for the Labor Studies and Resource Center, which assists union members in the East Metro. To register a team or participate as an individual, call Laura at 651-222-3787, extension 117.

## 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](http://www.afscmemn.org) or share news by emailing: [Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org).

### Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
Day on the Hill	March 28	Starting from Saint Paul RiverCentre
Seventh Annual Labor Bowl	April 27	Midway Bowl, call 651-222-3787, x117
Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships	April 30 deadline	<a href="http://www.mnafcio.org">www.mnafcio.org</a>
AFSCME Council 5 Scholarships	May 5 deadline	<a href="http://afscmemn.org/scholarships">afscmemn.org/scholarships</a>
Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarships	June 1 deadline	<a href="http://www.nelliestone.org">www.nelliestone.org</a>
AFSCME Family Picnic	August 20	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
Council 5 Annual Convention	October 4 to 7	Duluth Entertainment Convention Center