



## Michigan AFSCME Council 25

# News Release

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## **AFSCME: Bishop - Dillon 'Target Agreement' Irresponsible!**

*Lansing MI September 23, 2009* -- Albert Garrett, President of Michigan Council 25 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, issued the following statement:

The 'Target Agreement' by Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and Speaker of the House Andy Dillon is irresponsible," asserted Garrett. "If our state adopts the kind of budget contemplated in the 'Target Agreement,' the damage to revenue sharing will bankrupt 50 to 60 of our cities, including the City of Detroit.

"Bishop and Dillon have told House and Senate conferees to cut over \$400 million from current education spending levels after including nearly all the federal stimulus money," stated Garrett. "That means more than \$200 in foundation grant cuts for every student in the state. Our future requires a good education for our children. Yet Michigan is about to force our schools to increase class sizes and limit transportation and other programs necessary for the kind of education kids need to prepare for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"Worse ... the total state spending will be within dollars of the minimum amount necessary to qualify for ALL federal stimulus dollars," continued Garrett. "It is even possible that Michigan will be forced to seek a waiver of federal law – with no certainty of receiving it – to keep the millions of federal stimulus dollars that are preventing even deeper cuts in all state services.

"Cutting education opportunities for our children is not acceptable. Jeopardizing federal stimulus dollars is irresponsible," concluded Garrett. "We must reject the irresponsible Bishop - Dillon 'Target Agreement' and get to work on adopting a responsible state budget NOW!"

Albert Garrett also serves as Vice President of AFSCME International. Michigan AFSCME Council 25 represents more than 90,000 public workers across Michigan. AFSCME International represents 1.4 million public workers nationwide. News releases issued by Michigan AFSCME Council 25 are available at <http://www.miafscme.org/Releases.htm>

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