

# Bargaining is Better – Keep public services open

Throughout some 40 years of collective bargaining, Illinois state employees have reached contract settlements, with both Democratic and Republican Governors, without resorting to a strike. AFSCME Council 31, on behalf of 38,000 state employees, has proposed continuing negotiations and compromise. State workers want to continue working, providing the services Illinois needs.

Governor Rauner walked out of negotiations with AFSCME a year ago, and is poised to impose terms that

- drastically undermine dignity and living standards of workers, and
- allow unrestricted outsourcing of Medicaid and other public services to private companies.

The 38,000 state employees represented by AFSCME are forced to either accept those terms or go on strike – either of which will be harmful to people of Illinois. There is no practical reason that the governor and the union cannot come to a fair agreement. The Governor’s confrontational approach will further harm state government and the people of Illinois.

**We, the undersigned, urge Governor Bruce Rauner to avoid a shut-down of public services by resuming negotiations with AFSCME Council 31, and bargain in earnest for a fair contract.**

NAME	ADDRESS	City	ZIP	E-Mail Address