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## GOVERNOR PAWLENTY OUTLINES EFFECTS OF POSSIBLE STATE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN -- June 15, 2005

~ Pawlenty plan would keep critical services functioning, layoffs would number 15,700 ~

Vowing to protect Minnesotans and keep critical services functioning, Governor Tim Pawlenty today outlined his administration's plans for a partial state government shutdown that would occur on July 1 if the legislature does not pass key budget bills.

"Minnesotans need to hear about and understand the real human impacts if state government shuts down," Governor Pawlenty said. "State parks will close, rest areas will be boarded up and new drivers licenses won't be issued. More than 15,000 state employees – hardworking, dedicated people – will essentially be locked out of their jobs.

"Last week's budget offer from the Senate DFL was a shutdown offer. It was a deliberate stall, a non-starter and they knew it. Now it's going to take calls from the people of Minnesota to get the DFL back to the table and wrap up this Special Session. Anyone who considers the negative impacts of a shutdown should see it as a reason to seriously get back to the negotiating table."

The Governor also released documents that he will be submitting to the district court in order to keep core and critical services operating.

Key employment figures include:

- Approximately 24,200 state employees work at agencies that have not received funding for FY 2006-2007.
- Approximately 15,700 of those employees would be determined non-critical under the information collected by state agencies. Those employees would be laid off in a shutdown.
- Approximately 8,500 state employees at those agencies perform critical services and would be employed.

If a shutdown extends past July 14, separation costs for the approximately 15,700 employees who would be laid off would be an estimated \$380 million. That figure includes payout of vacation time, sick leave, unemployment compensation and six months of health insurance.

"June is halfway over," Governor Pawlenty said. "Minnesotans are heading to the cabin and taking family vacations. They expect their elected officials to show leadership and get the job done without wreaking havoc on state employees and government services. I'm willing to make sure that we take care of government's core functions, but the cost and impact of a shutdown would be felt far into the future."

At the Governor's direction, the state will petition the court to continue operating a number of core state government functions, including:

- All road State Patrol troopers and selected supervisors
- Renewal of most types of professional licenses, including drivers license renewals
- Continuation of active state highway and bridge construction projects
- Stillwater Lift Bridge operation
- Continued operation of ramp meters and MnPass lane operations
- Agriculture inspections including food, dairy and meat inspection
- Health and safety inspections of nursing homes, hospitals and home health care facilities
- Background checks for persons working in programs licensed by the Department of Human Services and Department of Health
- State operated services for mentally ill, chemically dependent, psychopathic personalities and nursing homes

- Direct care and supporting operations at Veterans Homes

If the remaining budget bills are not passed by July 1, the Department of Employee Relations will implement a "Limited Interruption of Employment" from July 1 to July 14 for employees who are not allowed to work during the shutdown. Any employee with accrued vacation or comp time will be allowed to use it during the limited interruption, but they will not receive payment for those hours until their agencies have been funded. Several hundred state employees have little or no vacation or comp hours.

If the shutdown exceeds two weeks, employees will be laid off with all their contractual rights, including bumping and severance pay.

"We have a limited window to get this done the right way," Governor Pawlenty concluded. "I've been willing to compromise and lead. I hope that the Senate DFL won't lock state employees out of their jobs and hamper state government over their desire to give us the highest income tax rate in the nation."

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