



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016

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# Public Employees Call on Governor to Change Course

**Annapolis, MD** - On the occasion of the Governor's annual open-house, dozens of public employees, represented by AFSCME Maryland Council 3, will take their message directly to Governor Larry Hogan about how his policies have directly impacted their lives and those of the people they serve. Governor Hogan's policies have led to workers not being paid for the work they do; vital services being cut, having a disproportionate, negative impact on underserved communities; and, leaving families to scramble to make ends meet around the holidays.

There is also serious concern for employees safety across the state. In the Division of Parole & Probation, understaffing leads to many offenders being unsupervised, a clear compromise of employee, inmate and public safety.

The Department of Social Services' Family Investment Centers are also severely understaffed. This leaves many aid-eligible Maryland citizens unable to receive the benefits they need because of the lack of staff to process applications. These are some of the most vulnerable families in Maryland and they suffer more when the Governor doesn't provide the necessary resources that state employees need to serve them.

In the Department of Juvenile Services and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, understaffing has led to a rise in assaults and violent incidences. For example, there are 32 employees who are out on injury leave from the Cheltenham Youth Facility. This is the highest rate in the state. There was also a riot at the SETT facility in Sykesville on Thanksgiving that could have been avoided had there been adequate staff.

Similar to the ineptitude demonstrated with the implementation of the Maryland Health Care Exchange, Governor Hogan's new payroll system is cheating workers out of countless hours of pay, resulting in erroneous paychecks at a scale that equates to statewide wage theft.

Public employees intend to take their stories of how this and the cuts to public services have directly impacted their families and their ability to get by. It's time to change course.

**WHO:** Public Safety Employees and their union AFSCME Council 3

Patrick Moran, President AFSCME Council 3

**WHAT:** Public Cry for a New Course for Maryland

**WHEN:** TODAY | Thursday, December 15 | 2:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Governor Hogan's Office | 7 School Street, Annapolis, MD

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