



## **Unallotments: 'bad math,' 'lousy government' and 'slavish adherence to the same failed philosophy'**

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Gov. Tim Pawlenty's unallotment announcement today created a run on thesauruses, as his political opponents rushed to find ways to describe his plan.

"The governor's action is in line with his recent veto of the anti-bullying bill," state Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville), who's hoping to be the DFL candidate for Pawlenty's job next year, said in a statement. "Tim Pawlenty has become the schoolyard bully; he is picking on the sickest, most vulnerable people in our state.

"While the governor tried to minimize the impact of his cuts on cities, schools and hospitals, those cuts will cause real harm to real people."

Marty implied that Pawlenty was himself employing a thesaurus in using a "long string of adjectives" to "decry the rapid growth of general assistance medical care -- even though this growth is caused by more adults losing their jobs and their health care, and in desperation turning to GAMC."

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, another DFLer pondering an ascension to the governor's office next year, also checked in.

"I deeply disagree with the governor, because his choices will hurt many people," Rybak said. "The governor has offered no plan for putting people to work, only for cutting jobs during a tough economy, and has offered no strategy for fixing a broken state budget that continues to lurch from deficit to deficit."

Rybak's sentiments were echoed by Barb Johnson, president of the Minneapolis City Council. "Unlike the state, the city of Minneapolis has addressed its financial challenges head on by paying down debt, doing long-term financial planning and delivering services more efficiently," Johnson said. "If the state had been as disciplined about managing its finances as we have been, they wouldn't be in this situation."

"It is important for everyone to understand that cuts made by the governor are massive and will be felt by every Minnesotan, and unfortunately those cuts will not solve the state's budget problem."

Steve Hunter, secretary-treasurer of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, called the unallotment plan a "huge setback to our economy, which is starting to show a few signs of recovery."

"The governor and his hopeful Republican successors are practicing bad math and lousy government," Hunter charged. "The governor and his allies have shown us that they're determined to protect the wealthiest Minnesotans by taking jobs and vital services away from working people."

And the state DFL Party flung a few well-placed adjectives of its own.

"In slavish adherence to the same failed philosophy that drove America into recession -- not to mention his own ambition -- Pawlenty and the Republicans have embarked on the arrogant, reckless and potentially illegal path of unallotment that will hurt hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans, and drive Minnesota's economy even further into a hole," Donna Cassutt, the party's associate chairwoman, said.

"The Republicans' actions today, which will lead to higher property taxes, fewer hospitals and worse health care, will push Minnesota's families off the economic cliff."

**Even the state's dentists are unhappy with Pawlenty this afternoon, registering "profound disappointment" with the governor's unallotment of \$6.2 million to the Critical Access Dental Provider Program, which helps clinics that treat low-income, special-needs and rural patients.**

**"Poor people don't have lobbyists," Dr. John Flor of Main Street Dental in Blooming Prairie said in a press release from the Minnesota Dental Association, "the voice of dentistry in Minnesota." "We see 16,000 medical assistance patients per year, and some come from up to 200 miles away to get access to our care. But we can't accept new patients without adequate funding. While our clinic may survive these cuts, others may not."**

<http://www.politicsinminnesota.com/2009/jun16/3332/unallotments-bad-math-lousy-government-and-slavish-adherence-same-failed-philosophy>