



UNION OFFERS PLAN TO PRESERVE VERMONT JOBS

Vermont State Employees Association Director Jes Kraus says the union has a plan to help the state deal with the budget deficit without eliminating hundreds of jobs. The union's proposal calls for a one year pay freeze with no cost of living adjustment for two years. There would also be savings in a wellness program, meal and tuition reimbursement, changes to the furlough system and other savings. If implemented, the union estimates the cuts would save about \$19.7 million, or about \$2,600 for each employee in the affected branches of the union. Kraus says he hopes the proposal could reduce or eliminate the need to cut up to 660 state jobs.

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