

THERE IS A SOLUTION

Approve revenue reforms to maintain vital public services

Illinoisans are suffering from the same national recession that's putting enormous pressure on other states. But our multibillion-dollar budget shortfall is compounded greatly by the failings of an inadequate, outdated and unfair state revenue system.

This shortfall already has forced long payment delays and painful budget cuts in critical health, education and human services at the very time families need them most— and far greater cuts have been proposed for the coming year. Yet cuts alone cannot fix our fiscal problems, and actually hamper efforts at economic recovery.

We need a comprehensive, balanced solution that raises more adequate revenues, modernizes our revenue system and treats families fairly. House Bill 174 is an example of the reform package that's needed— one that would:

Produce at least \$5 billion in badly needed state resources.



- ◆ Increase the state's personal and corporate income tax rates to at least 5 percent each, the first such increases in 21 years
- ◆ Expand the state's sales tax base to include more services, which are the fastest-growing portion of our economy

Raise new revenues according to families' ability to pay.

- ◆ Significantly grow the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income, working families
- ◆ Increase the state's property tax credit for homeowners
- ◆ Grow the state's standard exemption, helping all taxpayers

Preserve important state priorities for kids and families.

- ◆ Raise funds that are necessary to protect many vital health and human services from deeper budget cuts or even elimination
- ◆ Commit a portion of new revenues to strengthening kids' learning
- ◆ Enact school reforms through new oversight and accountability measures
- ◆ Ensure new resources for municipalities and other local governments, relieving some of the growing pressures on property taxes

We ALL do better with a responsible budget

Support a balanced approach — with an income tax increase

For more information, go to www.voices4kids.org, or call 312-516-5573