

# THERE IS A SOLUTION

## **Approve HB174 to maintain vital state services**

Illinoisans are suffering from the same miserable economy that's also putting enormous pressure on most other states. But our multibillion-dollar budget shortfall is compounded by the "structural deficit" failings of an inadequate, outdated and unfair state revenue system.

This shortfall already has begun to force painful budget cuts in critical health, education and human services at exactly the time families need these programs most. Cuts alone cannot fix Illinois' fiscal problems, and actually threaten to hamper our efforts at economic recovery.

We need a comprehensive, balanced solution that raises more adequate revenues, updates our revenue system and treats families more fairly – a solution like House Bill 174. This bill would:

### **Raise \$5 billion in new and desperately needed state resources.**



- ◆ Increase the state's personal and corporate income tax rates to 5 percent each, the first such increases in 20 years
- ◆ Expand the state's sales tax base to include more services, which are the fastest-growing portion of our economy

### **Provide \$1.2 billion in tax relief for families.**

- ◆ Triple the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income, working families
- ◆ Increase the state's standard exemption by 50 percent, helping all taxpayers
- ◆ Double the state's property tax credit for homeowners

### **Preserve important state priorities for kids and families.**

- ◆ Raise funds that are necessary to protect many vital health and human services from deep budget cuts or even elimination
- ◆ Commit half of new revenues to strengthening kids' learning, from early childhood through higher education
- ◆ Enact school reforms through new oversight and accountability measures
- ◆ Ensure new resources for municipalities and other local governments

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**PROTECT kids & families, jobs & communities**

**SUPPORT a balanced income tax increase**

For more information, go to [www.voices4kids.org](http://www.voices4kids.org), or call 312-516-5573