



Legislator Phone Call Talking Points

*For conversations with state legislators' offices about state budget cuts
and the need to raise new revenues*

FOR LEGISLATORS WHO VOTED “YES” ON A TAX INCREASE

- **Please thank (Rep. / Sen. X) for his/her vote to increase the income tax and produce the revenues so badly needed for a balanced solution to our budget shortfall.**

I appreciate his/her leadership and support for children and families who need our help.

Please ask him/her to stick with that resolve to protect important education, health and human services – and to enact comprehensive tax reform, including a revenue increase at least equal to that proposed in HB 174. The revenue mix contained in HB 174 is the most responsible framework for solving our state fiscal crisis. Please ask him/her to sign-on to the legislative principles of the Responsible Budget Coalition. We need strong leaders like him/her in Springfield – children’s well-being depends heavily on it. We all do better with a responsible budget.

FOR LEGISLATORS WHO VOTED “NO” ON A TAX INCREASE

- **The current state budget threatens or has already forced deep and damaging cuts to education, health care, human services, and public safety—the core responsibilities of state government—and undermines economic recovery by throwing thousands of Illinoisans out of work.**

It helps to personalize your message by briefly citing specific, local examples, if you know of programs in your community that have been impacted by budget cuts. Talk about the value of these services to people in need.

- **I see (Rep. / Sen. X) recently voted against an income tax increase. But that’s exactly the kind of measure we need for a balanced solution to our budget shortfall.**

Do you know why he/she opposed a tax increase for greater revenues? How would he/she solve our revenue shortfall?

Please ask him/her to support comprehensive tax reform, including a revenue increase at least equal to that proposed in HB 174. The revenue mix contained in HB 174 is the most responsible framework for solving our state fiscal crisis. Please ask him/her to sign-on to the legislative principles of the Responsible Budget Coalition. We need strong leaders like him/her in Springfield – children’s well-being depends heavily on it.

I would strongly urge Rep. / Sen. X’s support for a revenue increase at least equal to that proposed in HB 174. We all do better with a responsible budget.

(over)

***Updated 9/21/09**

Responsible Budget Coalition

Legislative Principles

I am committed to building the support needed to solve Illinois' budget crisis, prevent harmful cuts to essential public services, save jobs, eliminate the state's long-term structural deficit, and make taxes more fair.

I believe that the state has a moral and legal obligation to protect public safety, safeguard public health, strengthen our economy, and ensure that every individual has the opportunity to thrive. I know the current Illinois budget fails that test. It threatens or has already forced deep and damaging cuts to education, health care, human services, and public safety—the core responsibilities of state government—and undermines economic recovery by throwing thousands of Illinoisans out of work.

I acknowledge that this fiscal crisis, brought on by a long-standing structural budget deficit and an economic downturn, cannot be solved without significant new revenue. The revenue mix contained in HB 174—a comprehensive tax-reform package passed by the Illinois Senate and approved by a committee of the Illinois House—is the most responsible framework for such a solution.

I support this comprehensive tax reform, including a revenue increase at least equal to that proposed in HB 174, and pledge to work to enact it as soon as possible.

Signature

Print name

District

*To return this form or for more information, contact
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We can all do better

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