

Budget cuts cost jobs

Illinois' workforce will suffer under a slash-and-burn budget

Illinois' multibillion-dollar budget shortfall threatens deep funding cuts that would wreck a wide range of programs vital to kids and families. But cuts could also negatively effect our state's workforce, driving-up our already high unemployment rate.

Deep state budget cuts would:

- **Put tens of thousands of people out of work, destroying families' livelihoods.**

About 10,000 state workers could lose their jobs, straining crucial programs in a state that already claims one of the nation's lowest per-capita state employee headcounts.

About 100,000 more Illinoisans could also be put out of work. These include thousands of private-sector workers who provide critical community services such as child care, home care for seniors and disabled people – jobs that depend in part upon state grants and contracts.

The effects on important state services will be horrendous, ranging from fewer public safety workers to higher foster care caseloads to greater unemployment claims.

- **Reverse years of successful welfare-to-work reforms.**

Over the past dozen years, Illinois led the nation in moving people from unemployment and dependence to jobs and self-sufficiency. About 225,000 households depended upon monthly welfare checks in 1995; that figure has dropped to about 28,000 today.



We accomplished this by shifting money from cash assistance into family work supports such as affordable, state-assisted child care, helping more parents to find and retain jobs. Now, state child care programs face cuts of nearly 75 percent – threatening the job security of parents who suddenly find themselves unable to afford private, alternative care for their youngsters.

- **Negate the state's job-creation and economic recovery efforts.**

Governor Quinn signed a capital bill in April aimed at creating or retaining 60,000 jobs, and legislators recently approved a larger state construction program to boost employment in Illinois by hundreds of thousands more jobs. But state budget cuts would work against those plans, hobbling our efforts to strengthen the economy and reduce our 9.4 percent unemployment rate.

We cannot cut our way out of Illinois' budget-shortfall problems. A balanced approach includes raising new revenues by increasing the state's income tax to at least 5 percent.