



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 help us push for another chance to strengthen state revenues, as soon as possible. We need strong leaders like him/her in Springfield.

FOR LEGISLATORS WHO VOTED “NO” ON A TAX INCREASE

- **Children and families should not be made to suffer the catastrophic state budget cuts they're facing.**

The tentatively approved state budget could potentially slash programs by half, or more. Many vital programs are in immediate danger of deep cuts or elimination, ranging from preschool, mental health and “parent-coaching” programs to child care, after-school and other critical state initiatives.

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

Deep budget cuts would devastate kids, families and communities at a time they need our help most. And cuts alone cannot relieve our multibillion-dollar budget shortfall.

- **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 a tax increase to help produce badly needed state revenues, to protect vital services for kids and families. And please ask him/her to help us push for another opportunity for the legislature to vote for greater revenues, as soon as possible – children's well-being depends heavily on it.

I would strongly support Rep. / Sen. X's support for an income tax increase.