



# Tax Fairness Advocacy Toolkit

## Sample Phone Script when Calling your State Legislator about Revenue Adequacy and Tax Fairness

### **Option 1: Support for a tax increase and larger EITC**

Hello, my name is [Your Name] and I'm with [Organization]. Our organization [insert specifics as appropriate for your organization].

I am calling to ask your support for raising adequate revenue while providing important supports for low-income working families.

- **Increasing the state income tax is the fairest, most effective way to raise adequate new revenue.**

*Supporting information:*

Income tax revenues are Illinois' largest and most powerful revenue source and have not been raised in 20 years. In fact at 3 percent, Illinois has the lowest flat rate among the 41 states that have income taxes.

- **While an income tax increase is a fair and responsible way to raise revenue, it should be based on families' ability to pay. The Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provides tax relief to the lowest income working families who already pay an unfairly large proportion of their income in state and local taxes. We can do more for these families by quadrupling the credit to 20 percent of the federal EITC.**

*Supporting information:*

Currently, at a maximum of just \$241 per qualifying household, Illinois' EITC is the second smallest in the nation—at only 5 percent of the federal credit. Because the EITC is specifically targeted to low-income, working families, increasing the credit would be very cost-effective.

A larger EITC could be combined with an increase in the personal exemption in order to further increase fairness.

Thank you for your time and consideration Senator/Representative [NAME].



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## Sample Phone Script when Calling your State Legislator about Revenue Adequacy and Tax Fairness, cont.

### **Option 2: Support for a larger EITC**

Hello, my name is [Your Name] and I'm with [Organization]. Our organization [insert specifics as appropriate for your organization].

I am calling to ask your commitment to support low-income, working families through improved tax fairness.

- **National tax experts have called Illinois' income tax system one of the most unfair to low-income families in the country. Families who can least afford it pay an unfairly high percentage of their earnings in taxes.**

*Supporting information:*

As an overall percentage of their earnings, the lowest-income Illinois families often pay twice as much as wealthier households in state and local taxes combined. These families work hard, play by the rules and desperately need fairer tax treatment than we give them today.

- **That's why we should quadruple the size of Illinois' Earned Income Tax Credit to 20 percent of the federal EITC. It provides tax relief to those who need it the most: the lowest income working families.**

*Supporting information:*

Currently, at a maximum of just \$241 per qualifying household, Illinois' EITC is the second smallest in the nation—at only 5 percent of the federal credit. Because the EITC is specifically targeted to low-income, working families, increasing the credit would be very cost-effective.

A larger EITC could be combined with an increase in the personal exemption in order to further increase fairness.

Thank you for your time and consideration Senator/Representative [NAME].