



Talking points for revenue-reform conversations with Illinois lawmakers

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Background: To deal with a state revenue shortfall of about \$13 billion, the Governor's proposed state budget would slash more than \$2 billion from such vital priorities as early childhood and K-12 education, child care, kids' mental health services and after-school programs. Many of these priorities already are suffering from long delays in state payments and more than \$1 billion in deep funding cuts this year.

Kids, families and communities need a balanced, responsible budget solution that doesn't rely solely upon deep service cuts and heavy borrowing that increases our long-term costs. It's important that we demand better from our state representatives and senators, today.

Here's a three-step process, with basic talking points, for contacting your legislators:

- 1. Find your legislators' contact information** by visiting our [website](#).
- 2. Thank your legislator** if he or she has supported raising more adequate revenues for crucial public services through the income tax. Check this [list](#) for names. Share the following message with any lawmaker whose name appears on it:
 - Thank you for having supported an increase in the income tax, to raise more adequate revenues for vital services needed by children and families.
- 3. Encourage all legislators** to support, or continue to support, revenue reforms. Please share these messages with them:
 - Too many important priorities – from education to health and human services – are threatened with even deeper budget cuts and payment delays than they've already suffered.
 - Please push for final passage of the revenue framework seen in House Bill 174 – raising more adequate revenues for important services and doing it the right way, according to families' ability to pay.
 - This spring, kids and families need you to lead the fight for a balanced, responsible solution to Illinois' fiscal problems. We can't wait any longer.