



## Talking points for revenue-reform conversations with Illinois lawmakers

May 2010

*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**:  
[http://voices.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=il\\_homepage](http://voices.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=il_homepage).
- 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** (<http://voices4kids.org/getinvolved/revenue%20thank-yous%20032810%202.pdf>) 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.

