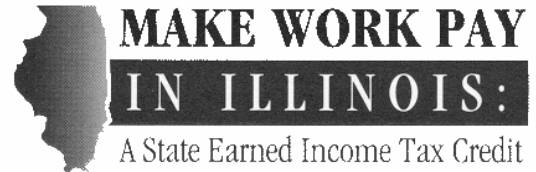


Approve SB12!

(Currie-Lindner-Black-W.Davis-Mendoza, Lang, Turner, Ford, Howard, Hernandez, Cross, Chapa LaVia, Biggins, Bassi, Graham, Osterman, Gordon, Collins, Soto, McGuire, Lyons, Franks, Reis, R.Bradley, Holbrook, Fritchey, Winters, Reitz, Smith, Jakobsson, Molaro, B.Mitchell, Ryg, Flowers, Miller, Harris, Jefferies, Arroyo, Berrios, Stephens, Watson, Nekritz, Younge, Osmond, Krause, McAuliffe, Saviano, Beiser, Phelps, Jefferson, D'Amico, Dugan, Moffitt, Boland, Schock, Rita, Verschoore, Coulson, Pritchard, Munson, Hamos, Burke, Tryon, Yarbrough, J.Mitchell, Bost, Brauer, Pihos, Froehlich, Feigenholtz, M.Davis, Riley, May, Flider, Colvin, Bellock, Golar, Cultra, Tracy, McCarthy, Scully, Brosnahan, Durkin, Granberg, Acevedo, Dunkin, Leitch, Mathias, Crespo, Cole, Sacia, Coladipietro, Fortner, Reboletti, Myers, Schmitz, Wait, Patterson, Washington)
= 100 co-sponsoring House members who support greater tax fairness and economic security for working-poor families

Help Working Families: Grow the Illinois EITC



What is the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit? It's the only tax benefit that expressly encourages and rewards work – a tax credit that last year benefited nearly 777,000 low-income, working families statewide. It is based on the federal EITC, which long has enjoyed strong bipartisan support.

Who benefits and how? To claim the EITC, taxpayers must be both low-income and working. Families with earnings up to \$39,783 qualify. However, because the Illinois EITC is set at only 5 percent of the federal EITC, the maximum amount of the Illinois credit is only about \$235 – among the nation's smallest.



Why the EITC?

- **It's a work incentive** – available only to working households, and helping to lift our lowest-paid workers out of poverty.
- **It eases taxes** – helping to offset low-income families' unfairly large share of state and local taxes. In tax year 2003, the poorest one-fifth of Illinois households paid about 13 percent of their incomes in state and local taxes, while the wealthiest 1 percent spent less than 6 percent of theirs on such taxes.
- **It provides "economic stimulus"** to local communities – helping people save more money and invest it in neighborhood stores, banks and other businesses.

How can it be improved? The Illinois EITC should be increased gradually, to provide families and communities with more of the help they need. Illinois' maximum EITC of \$235 per family is among the very smallest of the nation's 23 state EITCs, which range as high as \$2,000 in such states as Wisconsin.

SB12, which passed the Senate unanimously in February 2007, would increase EITC assistance:

- **In 2008**, the Illinois EITC would rise to 7.5 percent of the federal credit, for a maximum value of approximately \$350 per qualifying family;
- **In 2009**, it would rise to 10 percent of the federal credit, for a maximum state EITC of about \$470.

For more information, please contact: Sean Noble (312-516-5566, snoble@voices4kids.org) or Maneesha Date Jacoby (312-516-5568, mdate@voices4kids.org) at Voices for Illinois Children. See reverse for a list of Make Work Pay campaign supporters.

02.18.08

*"The best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job-creation measure to come out of Congress."
– President Ronald Reagan, describing the federal Earned Income Tax Credit in 1986*



MAKE WORK PAY

IN ILLINOIS:

A State Earned Income Tax Credit

Make Work Pay campaign members include these organizations, who support efforts to “make work pay” and taxes fairer for working families:

Voices for Illinois Children
Center for Economic Progress
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
Protestants for the Common Good
Action for Children
Action Now
Catholic Conference of Illinois
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Foundation for Women
Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues
Children’s Home and Aid Society of Illinois
Citizen Action / Illinois
H&R Block
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights
Housing Action Illinois
Illinois AFL-CIO
Illinois Family Partnership Network
Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Latino Coalition for Prevention
League of Women Voters of Illinois
Lutheran Advocacy – Illinois
Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Metropolitan Family Services
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Progressive Public Affairs
Project Irene
SEIU Illinois Council
SEIU Local 880
Uhlich Children’s Advantage Network
United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 881
Women Employed
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

List as of 21 April 2008