



**Civic Groups, Social Service Agencies, Advocacy Groups and Foundations Come Together to Tell Legislators and Governor: Don't Come Home without a Fully Funded, Balanced Budget**

*Passing Standalone K-12 and Stopgap Spending for FY2018 Will Make the Crisis Worse*

Springfield must pass a comprehensive, balanced budget that fully funds Illinois' obligations.

- The state's nearly **two-year** budget impasse is crushing our most vulnerable citizens including school children, the elderly, those living with mental illness and anyone who relies on the state for services.
  - Even with full general state aid funding, school districts around the state are struggling because of delayed payments for obligations such as transportation and special education. Many have said they may not be able to open in the fall without a **comprehensive** state budget in place.
  - Social service agencies have been forced to lay off staff and reduce programming such as addiction treatment, domestic violence services and home care for seniors.
  - Universities are operating on partial funding, making it difficult to attract top-tier faculty and students and jeopardizing the future of our state through brain drain.
  - Many state employees are having trouble getting a doctor's appointment because health insurance claims are not being paid.
- The State of Illinois is in shameful financial shape.
  - The state's credit rating has fallen to worst-in-the-nation, near-junk status, increasing borrowing costs for any government in Illinois that issues debt.
  - If no action is taken, the state's massive backlog of bills could rise to \$19.7 billion by the end of fiscal year 2018, which would restrict more than half of the state's fiscal year 2019 General Funds revenues.
    - Many of the bills in the state's backlog accrue interest at 9-12% per year.
    - In the last decade, Illinois has paid \$1.1 billion in interest penalties on overdue bills. The Comptroller estimates **interest due on current bills to be \$800 million.**

What should be done?

- Operating Illinois on autopilot is not a solution, nor is it sustainable. Further, it represents an abdication of governance by all of our elected officials in Springfield.
- While each group in our coalition may have different proposals for reform, we all agree that the state **MUST** pass a comprehensive, balanced budget that includes additional revenues.
- Springfield can no longer cherry-pick areas of government to fund while pledging to work toward a complete budget in the abstract future.
- Partial budgets, stopgap plans and singling out elementary and secondary education have not helped anyone. In fact, this scheme has exacerbated our financial dysfunction.
- Any person or group that says a balanced budget can be done through cuts alone fails to realize that we have already spent whatever tax increase is coming.
- **Therefore we warn the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Rauner: Do right by Illinois. Don't come home without a budget.**



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