



March 1, 2017

## **Illinois Families Cannot Afford Governor Bruce Rauner**

I've stood with Governor Bruce Rauner to help reform the criminal justice system when he signed a bill on which I was Chief Co-sponsor to make sure people leaving any prison in Illinois have a valid ID. I've also stood with the Governor to help save Chicago State University. I've stood with the Governor to provide IT grants to small businesses in Illinois. As a member of the General Assembly, it is my job to work with the governor to move Illinois forward. I will continue to proudly stand with Governor Rauner when he does good things to help the people of Illinois.

However, I cannot stand with the governor on the non-budgetary demands that continue to hurt the West Side of Chicago. The governor's inability to prepare and submit a budget is a sign of his priorities. This inability to fulfill this constitutional duty is worse than anything ex-Governor Rod Blagojevich did to the taxpayers of Illinois.

Our state Constitution starts with these words: "We, the People of the State of Illinois - grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He has permitted us to enjoy and seeking His blessing upon our endeavors - in order to provide for health, safety and welfare of the people; maintain a representative and orderly government; eliminate poverty and inequality; assure legal, social and economic justice; provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual; insure domestic tranquility; provide for the common defense; and secure the blessings of freedom and liberty to ourselves and our posterity - do ordain and establish this Constitution for the State of Illinois."

In Article VIII, Section 2(a), our Illinois Constitution states: "The Governor shall prepare and submit to the General Assembly, at a time prescribed by law, a State budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget shall set forth the estimated balance of funds available for appropriation at the beginning of the fiscal year, the estimated receipts, and a plan for expenditures and obligations during the fiscal year of every department, authority, public corporation and quasi-public corporation of the State, every State college and university, and every other public agency created by the State, but not of units of local government or school districts. The budget shall also set forth the indebtedness and contingent liabilities of the State and such other information as may be required by law. Proposed expenditures shall not exceed funds estimated to be available for the fiscal year as shown in the budget."

Governor Rauner recently gave his budget address to the state of Illinois, but he did not present a budget for the General Assembly to consider. The Illinois Constitution outlines the role of the General Assembly after the governor proposes a budget in Article VIII, Section 2(b): "The General Assembly by law shall make appropriations

for all expenditures of public funds by the State. Appropriations for a fiscal year shall not exceed funds estimated by the General Assembly to be available during that year”.

After almost two years, Illinois continues to ignore its constitutional obligation to adopt a state budget. The General Assembly has passed budgets, but Gov. Rauner vetoed those budgets passed by the General Assembly. It is estimated that Illinois not-for-profit businesses have lost at least \$37 million in the last 18 months because there has not been a budget.

Thousands of seniors don't have meals and hundreds of families don't have funding for autism treatment - that's just a few of the social service programs being cut. Providers say these latest budget cuts are weakening the state's economy and harming vulnerable communities. The Responsible Budget Coalition gathered in the capitol to deliver their version of the State of our State address. Advocates for social services are asking Governor Rauner to consider the larger impacts of the budget deadlock, such as nearly 85,000 seniors losing Meals on Wheels, more than 130,000 people with epilepsy without treatment, and 15,000 low-income women not receiving potential life-saving cancer screenings. Polly Poskin from the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault says all of this could have been avoided had the governor signed a budget last summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Ford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

La Shawn K. Ford  
State Representative-Eighth District