



December 12, 2017

## **OBAMACARE DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15 – AND We Must Come Together to Fight the Proposed Tax Reform Plan**

NOTICE: If you want to be insured on January 1, 2018 and you don't have health insurance through your job or through Medicaid or Medicare, the open enrollment period to sign up for health insurance (Obamacare) through the marketplace exchange will end on December 15, 2017. Go to [www.getcoveredillinois.gov](http://www.getcoveredillinois.gov) or call 866-311-1119. SIGN UP TODAY!

Now, we will discuss the proposed federal Tax Reform Plan, which threatens to destroy families in Illinois who are already struggling. Throughout Illinois, there are distressed counties and communities that struggle with many economic and social problems, including crime, unemployment, poverty, high and underwater mortgages, foreclosures, declining property values, deficiencies in public health services, the opioid crisis, and deficits in public education.

Some counties and communities disproportionately experience these serious social and economic ills. For example, Illinois counties that had 16% or more of their population in poverty in 2010 include: Alexander, Champaign, Coles, Cook, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Lawrence, McDonough, Macon, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Vermilion, White, Williamson, and Winnebago.

Illinois also has the 14<sup>th</sup>-highest adjusted gross income in the United States. According to Illinois Policy, Trump's tax plan would remove the deductibility of state and local taxes. This would essentially increase the cost to Illinoisans, who pay higher state and local taxes. Illinois continues to struggle not only because our flat tax system is unfair but also because we are a donor state. We send more money to Washington, but the federal government invest too little in our state, even though we have many unmet needs.

Every state receives different levels of funding from the federal government to help support its economy. The website Wallethub considered each state based on four metrics: its citizens return on taxes paid to the federal government, the percentage of state revenue from federal funding, the number of federal employees per 1000 residents, and the number of civilian non-defense federal employees per 1000 residents.

According to Wallethub, citizens in Illinois receive \$0.45 back for every dollar they pay in federal income tax, which is the third lowest mark in America. Only 26.41% of state revenue is comprised of federal funds, which is the eighth lowest mark in the country. Illinois has 5.5 federal employees per 1000

residents, which is 14th lowest in the country, and 2.72 non-defense federal employees per 1000 residents, good for 11th lowest in the country.

In March 2010, I introduced and the Illinois House passed a Resolution that “urges Congress to provide financial assistance to states so that state governments will be able to address budget deficits”. We need to ask why we haven’t been getting more federal money and resources back to Illinois. We can’t continue taxing the working class and giving a pass to the rich – and this proposed tax cut could make Illinois’ road to financial recovery almost impossible.

### **How Will the Proposed Tax Reform Plan Overall Impact Struggling Families America?**

- Greatly reduce Medicaid by \$5.3 trillion over ten years
- Trigger \$400 billion in Medicare cuts over ten years
- Greatly reduce food stamps by 30 percent
- Eliminate the ability to write off student loan interest
- Dramatically reduce college Pell grants
- Significantly reduce the number of Head Start slots by 200,000
- Cut K-12 education funding by 30 percent
- Eliminate rental assistance to nearly 1 million households
- Cut job training by 40 percent
- Exacerbate the wealth disparity between white and nonwhite Americans
- Put median black household wealth on a path to hit zero by 2053
- Create an additional \$1.5 trillion deficit that would force the gutting of social service programs for decades to come

**Call and write your Congressional Representatives and tell them that you are against the currently proposed Tax Reform Plan:**

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Sincerely,



La Shawn K. Ford  
State Representative-Eighth District