Statement from Governor Rod R. Blagojevich

On House Bill 750

SPRINGFIELD – “I oppose any increase in the income tax or sales tax. I will veto any tax increase on people.”

“Instead, I’ve presented a plan for tax fairness that would enable us to fully fund our schools and provide access to affordable healthcare for everyone in Illinois. We can meet our goals by asking big businesses to pay their fair share like individuals and smaller businesses already do.”

The Governor’s Helping Kids Learn plan would boost school funding by an unprecedented $1.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2008. Under the plan:

- General state aid to schools will increase by $800 million, raising the Foundation Level by $724 to $6,058.
- The state will give schools additional funds to hire special education teachers and fully fund ‘mandated categorical’ programs like special education and transportation.
- We will increase funding for Preschool for All, the Governor’s program that gives every 3 and 4-year old the opportunity to go to preschool.
- We will give schools resources to provide full-day kindergarten.
- School districts will get extra funds to invest in proven strategies that raise student achievement.
- We will invest $1.5 billion in a capital construction plan that will build new classrooms and school buildings across the state.