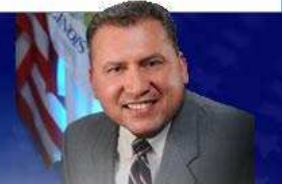


SENATOR MICHAEL NOLAND

Public Service that Works for Us



Leading the Way on...
Accountability in Government
Jobs & Economic Growth
Affordable Healthcare
Quality Education
Getting the Job Done for the 22nd District



May 17, 2010

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HB 174

By now you've probably heard about the hundreds of layoffs at School Districts U-46 and 300. The tough economy and falling tax revenues have hit our state's schools, our social services and health care providers very hard.

Having more schools in my district than any other area legislator, and having two very young children in the public schools, I take the matter of school funding very seriously. As well, having three major hospitals and scores of clinics and agencies dedicated to the health and well being of the people in my district, I also take the matter of health care very seriously.

How we address these issues, in the face of an estimated \$13 billion budget deficit here in the state of Illinois, is the contemporary moral question of our time. The Governor has proposed a 1% income tax increase to help fill the gap and some have asked whether I will support this measure.

Let me say that, while I agree with the Governor that there need to be cuts and an increase in revenue, any income tax increase must also be accompanied by much needed property tax relief, something the Governor's proposal does not do. So with all due respect to this true and courageous champion of the people, I must vote against the Governor's proposed budget and keep fighting for the only real solution to our fiscal crisis: HB 174.

HB 174 passed out of the Illinois Senate last year however currently awaits passage in our House of Representatives. While also calling for a modest tax increase, the bill provides property *tax relief* for families that need it most. This bill will bring over \$2.5 billion in new funding to education including an estimated \$28 million for School District U-46 and another \$11 million for School District 300. The bill cuts state spending by over \$2 billion while shifting more resources to health and human services. HB 174 absolutely changes the way we do the people's business in Illinois. And it does so *without* further borrowing which has lead us to the fiscal crisis and financial mess we find ourselves in today.

I am urging all concerned who ask what can be done to pass HB 174 to contact State Representatives, not Senators, and ask them to pass this bill. In particular, realizing that there is broad support for the bill amongst House Democrats, I strongly urge you to contact House Republicans. The common wisdom in the capitol these days is that we only need a few reasonable House Republicans to get this job done.

For a more detailed discussion of HB 174 please visit my website at noland.org, or, you can call me at (847) 214-8864. Together we can save our schools, pay our health care providers, and create a better tomorrow for *all* of Illinois.