

Your voice counts more than ever!

The State of Illinois is facing the worst budget crisis in its history ... with a gaping budget hole of close to \$9 billion, a deficit of almost 33%.



Shared Values. Shared Responsibility.

In May, the Illinois General Assembly responded to the budget crisis by slashing state spending for most human care services (nutrition, housing, healthcare, social services and education) by 50% to 75%. Unless something changes by June 30, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) and hundreds of other organizations that the state relies on to provide services, will begin to limit or close programs that serve our neighbors in need.

What needs to change?

The State of Illinois desperately needs carefully thought out tax reform that will:

1. provide adequate and sustainable funding to pay for state services
2. protect low and moderate income households from the impact of any tax increase
3. provide greater state funding for public education to overcome the over-reliance on local property taxes to fund public education.

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Social Services of Illinois since 2002. The Illinois House of Representatives, however, has never been allowed to vote on HB 174.

Your advocacy is needed to move HB 174 in the Illinois House of Representatives so that services for people in need will not be disrupted or terminated.

Please make two brief toll-free phone calls on Monday. Call your State Senator and your State Representative to ask them to support a tax increase to continue funding vital state services. AARP Illinois has made their toll free number available to support this important public service campaign. Call **888-616-3322** and ask to be connected to your State Senator or State Representative. (If you do not know who your senator or representative is, please log onto www.LutheranAdvocacy.org and click on "Find your elected officials," enter your address and then click on the "State" tab).

Your message can be as simple as, "I live in Senator/Representative _____'s district and I'm calling to tell him/her that I support tax reform such as those included in House Bill 174 to pay for vital state services."

**For more information, contact
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