



May 1, 2009

To: Governor Pat Quinn and
Members of the Illinois General Assembly

We, the undersigned members of the Illinois Alliance for Quality Early Childhood Settings, declare our support for reform of Illinois' revenue system.

Illinois' longstanding structural budget deficit continuously jeopardizes funding for a wide range of needed early childhood programs. The structural budget deficit, Illinois' regressive tax structure, and the chronic underfunding of our state's early childhood programs are persistent threats to the health, well-being and future life prospects of Illinois' most vulnerable children and their families.

Research has proven that the earlier we invest in a child's life, the greater the return on that investment. This is not only due to increased positive school outcomes but also reduced social spending on programs such as special education and use of public benefits. In order to ensure that we are producing a well-educated workforce in the future, we must continue to make quality early childhood programs available to more children around the state.

Illinois' revenue system must be reformed to collect enough revenue to sustainably eliminate the structural deficit, more fairly distribute the overall responsibility of state and local taxes, and significantly expand funding for early childhood programs.

Sincerely,

Illinois Action for Children
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Voices for Illinois Children
Chicago Coalition of Site Administered Child Care Programs
Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children
Child Care Coalition of Lake County
Children's Home + Aid
Childcare Network of Evanston
Illinois Facilities Fund
Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (INCCRRA)
Latino Policy Forum
Lifelink Corporation
PSO/Illinois' Child Care Association
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago