

December 22, 2009

Dear Friend:

As the year draws to a close, Illinois' fiscal meltdown has harmed communities – and people – across the state. Our deadbeat state is now delinquent in paying over \$4.5 billion owed to private providers of human and health care services. This means those providers are forced to cut jobs and reduce their support of children who've been abused or neglected, low income, working moms who need childcare to stay employed, people with mental health, developmental disabilities or substance abuse problems, and families that need housing assistance. Ultimately, all of us suffer, both economically, as lost provider jobs reduce consumer spending in the private sector, worsening the state's recession, and morally, as vulnerable people are left without needed support.

The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA) plays an important role in identifying, analyzing and explaining how state fiscal, budget, education, health, human service and economic policies collectively work against low and moderate income families in Illinois. But CTBA does not stop at identifying problems. Instead we work hard to develop policy options to redress these structural issues that are fact-based, incorporate best practices designed to bridge ideological divides.

In the end, passing fair and effective tax, budget, education, health, human service and workforce policies will not only create opportunity and enhance well-being for those who need it most, but also benefit the entire state's long-term economic growth.

2010 will be a pivotal year for Illinois. While CTBA has laid the groundwork for addressing many of the major issues that have confounded the state for decades, much work must be done to achieve comprehensive and meaningful reform. CTBA's fact-based information and advocacy will make a meaningful difference in outcomes for education, health care, work force development and transparency in state and federal government, but only with your help.

Your support is crucial to the leadership and advocacy CTBA can accomplish. Please consider a year-end, tax-deductible contribution to CTBA. As a donor, you will remain at the forefront of our information dissemination, as well as be the first invited to public policy briefings and roundtable discussion. Visit www.ctbaonline.org for more information.

Thank you for your past generosity. Together, we make a meaningful difference! Please help us for 2010.

Peace,



Ralph Martire
Executive Director