



News From State Representative Sandra Pihos

Representative Pihos wants to focus on Illinois' future

State Representative Sandra Pihos was hoping that Governor Quinn, during his State of the State Address, would present the General Assembly with his priorities and goals for real ethics reform, government efficiency, and legislative priorities for the future - not a review of past accomplishments.

“He brought us a well delivered campaign speech when I was looking forward to hearing him present the General Assembly with a more detailed plan on how we can begin to work together to grow Illinois’ economy, create job opportunities, address the needs of our social service agencies and we heard nothing of the sort,” said Representative Pihos. “It was a nice review of the last legislative year and I commend him for honoring residents and General Assembly members who have made substantial contributions. However, the governor needed to focus on his ideas to fix the current fiscal crisis now and to hear about what our starting point is today. I expected, at the very least, a true accounting where our state is right now,” said Representative Pihos. “Caregivers, schools, and many others continue to wait months to get reimbursed for services they have already provided. They need to know what to expect in the coming year.”

Governor Quinn talked about the Capital Program that was passed last year but he failed to mention that the inability to enact it lost Illinois the entire construction season and didn’t create the jobs we had hoped for nor is the funding source stable. He talked about being adamantly opposed to the 50% cuts to social service agencies in an earlier 2010 budget but that was the budget the Governor actually proposed to begin with.

According to Pihos, Illinois is now facing a \$5.1 billion backlog in unpaid bills and the largest budget shortfall in state history. “Our time in Springfield would have been better spent discussing the budget, and how we can turn the economy around to get people back to work. We need real solutions to fix our problems sooner rather than later.”

“The taxpayers of Illinois deserve a budget that is well thought out and is the product of collaborative effort rather than a partisan budget dropped on lawmakers at the 11th hour that can’t be reviewed, discussed and improved.

It is my hope that we go about the process differently this year so that we don’t keep facing the same problems that have landed us where we are today. It is time to start putting the people of this state first. The crisis is already here and we need to start working together now.”