



SENATE JOURNAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS

NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

75TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006

11:10 O'CLOCK A.M.

SENATE
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75th Legislative Day

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The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.
 Senator James A. DeLeo, Chicago, Illinois, presiding.
 Prayer by Pastor Zachary Lee, Mt. Paran Baptist Church, East St. Louis, Illinois.
 Senator Maloney led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Tuesday, February 14, 2006, was being read when on motion of Senator Hunter, further reading of same was dispensed with, and unless some Senator had corrections to offer, the Journal would stand approved. No corrections being offered, the Journal was ordered to stand approved.

REPORTS RECEIVED

The Secretary placed before the Senate the following reports:

Financial Statement Report for the six months ended December 31, 2005, submitted by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority.

Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Proposal, submitted by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Compliance Examination Report of the Office of the Auditor General, submitted by the Legislative Audit Commission.

The foregoing reports were ordered received and placed on file in the Secretary's Office.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES FILED

The following Floor amendments to the Senate Bills listed below have been filed with the Secretary and referred to the Committee on Rules:

Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2198
 Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2267
 Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2290
 Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2664
 Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2691
 Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2870
 Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2998
 Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 3046

The following Committee amendments to the Senate Bills listed below have been filed with the Secretary and referred to the Committee on Rules:

Senate Committee Amendment No. 7 to Senate Bill 2144
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2349
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2469
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2558
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2558
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2574
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2578
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2578
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2611
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 2688
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2847
 Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2983

The following Committee amendment to the House Bill listed below has been filed with the Secretary and referred to the Committee on Rules:

[February 15, 2006]

Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to House Bill 2469

REPORT FROM RULES COMMITTEE

Senator Viverito, Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, during its February 15, 2006 meeting, reported the following Legislative Measures have been assigned to the indicated Standing Committees of the Senate:

Commerce & Economic Development: Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 3056.

Executive: Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2400; Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2558; Senate Committee Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 2688; Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2847.

Financial Institutions: Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2611.

Licensed Activities: Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2469
Senate Committee Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2469; Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2574.

State Government: Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2949.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

A message from the House by

Mr. Mahoney, Clerk:

Mr. President -- I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to-wit:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 96

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the two Houses shall convene in Joint Session on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at the hour of 12:00 o'clock noon for the purpose of hearing his Excellency Governor Rod Blagojevich present to the General Assembly his Budget Message for the Fiscal Year 2007, as required by Chapter 15, Section 20/50-5 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

Adopted by the House, February 9, 2006.

MARK MAHONEY, Clerk of the House

By unanimous consent, on motion of Senator Halvorson, the foregoing message reporting House Joint Resolution No. 96 was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Halvorson moved that the Senate concur with the House in the adoption of the resolution.

The motion prevailed.

And the Senate concurred with the House in the adoption of the resolution.

Ordered that the Secretary inform the House of Representatives thereof.

Senator Link announced a Democratic Caucus immediately upon recess.

Senator Burzynski announced a Republican Caucus immediately upon recess.

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At the hour of 11:20 o'clock a.m., the Chair announced that the Senate stand at recess for the purpose of proceeding to the House of Representatives to meet in a joint session pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 96.

**JOINT SESSION
12:00 O'CLOCK NOON**

The hour having arrived, the time heretofore fixed by Joint Resolution adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Joint Session convened for the purpose of receiving the Governor to deliver the Budget Message in person to the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly.

The Senate, preceded by the Honorable President Jones and Members of the Senate, appeared in the Hall of the House of Representatives and, by direction of the Speaker, took the seats assigned to them.

The two Houses being convened in Joint Session, President Jones of the Senate announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

Speaker Madigan, of the House of Representatives, announced that a quorum of the House was present.

A majority of each House of the General Assembly being present, the Speaker of the House announced the Joint Session duly formed.

Representative Currie offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

JOINT SESSION RESOLUTION 5

RESOLVED, That a committee of ten be appointed, five from the House, by the Speaker of the House, and five from the Senate, by the President of the Senate, to wait upon His Excellency Governor Rod Blagojevich and invite him to address the Joint Assembly.

The motion prevailed.

The President of the Senate announced his appointments, as Members of such Committee, on the part of the Senate: Senators Don Harmon, Wendell Jones, Martin Sandoval, Donne Trotter and Richard Winkel, Jr.

The Speaker of the House announced the appointments, as Members of such Committee, on part of the House: Representatives Sara Feigenholtz, Ruth Munson, Chapin Rose, Pat Verschoore and Eddie Washington.

His Excellency, Governor Rod Blagojevich, was admitted into the Hall of the House of Representatives, and was presented to the General Assembly, to deliver his message in person as follows:

**GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH
2006 BUDGET ADDRESS**

(as transcribed by the House of Representatives)

Mr. Speaker, Senate President Jones, Ladies and Gentlemen of the General Assembly, thank you so much for being here and allowing me to come back. Before I begin, let me first make a quick acknowledgement. This is our fourth budget and I think it's altogether fitting and proper that I acknowledge the architect of these budgets that we believe so much in, that have done so much to help so many people. I wanna acknowledge somebody who's worked so hard and spent a lot of time away from his family, and I wanna thank him for his dedication and the men and women who work in the budget office. Ladies and Gentlemen, let's give a round of applause to John Filan, our Budget Director, John. As I said, this is my fourth budget address, but instead of giving a speech I thought this would be a good time to walk through the numbers so you can see where we were, what we've done, but most importantly, what we need to continue to do to make progress in Illinois. First, let's remember where we were, a record budget deficit \$5 billion. Education was underfunded, health care was shortchanged, State Government was bloated and inefficient, spending was out of control, and too much of that spending was being spent on the wrong things. It was spending that fed the system here, but all too often

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shortchanged the people out there. Before we took office 3 years ago, spending was growing too fast. Between fiscal year '03... between fiscal year '93 and fiscal year '03, spending was growing at 5.4 percent, even though inflation was only 2½ percent. The state's payroll was way too big and that's been a constant problem here in Springfield. From 1972 to 2002, from Presidents Nixon to Bush to Bush, one thing never changed, the size of the state's payroll. Even though spending kept growing, education was consistently underfunded. Between 1993 and 2002, with an exception or two, education spending was basically flat. And then in fiscal year 2003, the year before we began our journey together, education spending actually went down. The health care system was failing children and failing families. Health care coverage was limited only to the poor and too many middle-class families were falling through the cracks. Middle-class families who didn't have health care were left out in the cold and no one was doing anything about trying to help them. We inherited a recession that cost us over 200 thousand jobs. We inherited a pension system that was consistently underfunded. The pension plan that was passed back in 1995 only pushed the problem farther into the future. By the time we took office, the pension systems were funded at only 48 percent. We inherited a \$5 billion budget deficit. That's more than 20 percent of the total general revenue budget for our first year together, fiscal year 2004. That budget deficit was so big that most experts said the only way out was to cut education, cut health care, or raise taxes or do a combination of all three. Now that's what we inherited: uncontrolled spending, bloated payrolls, neglected schools, too many people without health care, a recession, massive pension shortfalls, and a \$5 billion budget deficit. Now, here's how we turned it around and started to make progress. First, we established five guiding principles: we weren't gonna raise the income tax, we weren't gonna raise the sales tax, we were going to invest in our schools, we were going to make sure that people got the health care they need, and we were going to make government smaller and more efficient. Then we took the budget apart and started reordering and reprioritizing how we spend the people's hard earned money. Because what it really comes down to is making choices. We can have more three- and four-year-olds in preschool or we can have more state employees. We can help senior citizens pay for their medicine or we can keep corporate loopholes on the books. We can make sure that kids get health care or we can keep on treating special-purpose funds as sacred cows. We chose to dramatically change priorities. We chose to reduce headcount. Governor Ryan at his peak had almost 70 thousand state employees; we have 13 thousand fewer state employees, 57 thousand state employees today. This reduction saves us \$800 million this year and it will save us \$1 billion in fiscal year 2009. We downsized and consolidated agencies. We started to control spending. We slowed the spending, the rate of spending growth by 40 percent, and we managed our debt. Now, there's a lot of confusion and misinformation on this and I'd like all of us to understand what the facts are. We have issued far less in bonds than Governor Ryan and just a little more than Governor Edgar. But did ya know that approximately two-thirds of the bonds that we are issuing go to pay off Governor Ryan's Illinois FIRST obligations? We also have too many special-purpose funds sitting with huge balances and not being used to help people. We started using some of those funds to help pay for schools. And even with that, the balances in those funds are essentially the same today as they were 3 years ago. We eliminated the deficit. It was \$5 billion when we came in, \$2.3 billion in fiscal year 2005, \$1.1 dol... billion last year, and now we have no deficit. Over the past 3 years... I thought it was time to wake you guys up. Over the past 3 years we increased education funding by \$2.3 billion. We put more money in our schools than any state in the Midwest, more than any... more than 43 other states and more money in one term than any other administration in Illinois history. We also... we also increased high school graduation standards for the first time in 21 years, more money, and higher standards. And we believe that children need to start learning early. By investing in early childhood education, we are helping to make our \$2.3 billion investment pay off. We've increased state funding for preschool by 50 percent, givin' 25 thousand more three- and four-year-olds a chance to start school early. And in a little while... in a little while, I'm gonna ask you to give that same opportunity to every single child in the State of Illinois. Next we focused on health care. I believe that health care is a fundamental right and in Illinois we are putting our money where our mouth is. The Kaiser Foundation now ranks Illinois number one in the nation for helping working parents get health care. More than 180 thousand adults who work and didn't have health care, before we came in, now have health care today. We're now the only state in the nation to guarantee comprehensive health care coverage for all kids. This chart reflects the progress we've made. And now with AllKids we're going to reach the remaining 250 thousand kids who are falling through the cracks. Before now, there were tens of thousands of children across Illinois who didn't have access to health care. Today, all children in Illinois who need health care will have a way to get it. Health care is a fundamental right and that means providing health care coverage to more women, more mammograms, more cervical cancer screenings. Providing health care also means protecting our seniors. Washington's Medicare plan actually makes things worse. Under their plan, if you're somewhat sick, you'll get some coverage. If

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you're catastrophically sick, you'll get some coverage. But if you're just very sick, you're on your own. That nearly \$3 thousand gap that seniors are forced to pay is commonly called the doughnut hole. Here in Illinois we filled in the gaps protecting 230 thousand senior citizens. Thank you for helping us do that. When we first took office, we had the dual challenge of not only fighting crime but also protecting our state from terrorism. Violent crimes are down 9 percent, property crimes are down 6 percent. And I wanna thank the men and women in law enforcement who are making this possible and I'm joining with the men and women in law enforcement to call on the General Assembly to ban assault weapons. We now have one of the nation's leading homeland security programs. We're one of only three states in the nation to receive the highest rating for bioterrorism preparedness and emergency management. Crime is down, jobs are up. We inherited a recession but we've turned the corner. We held the line on income and sales taxes, it's created a better climate for business, and it's paying off. The unemployment rate has reached its lowest level since 2001. And we just had 11 straight months of job growth in Illinois; that's the first time that's happened in 13 years. Corporate profits are way up. You guys can clap, that's a good thing. Corporate profits are up. In fact, they're at their highest level since 1997. We completed 450 business deals and that means \$5.3 billion in new private investment in Illinois. And just a few weeks ago, I had a chance to visit the Chrysler plant in Belvidere. At a time when the automotive industry in the United States is shrinking, here in Illinois it's actually growing. General Motors cut 3... 30 thousand jobs across the country, Ford cut 30 thousand jobs across the country, but thankfully they left their plant in Illinois. And Chrysler just recently announced their decision to make the new Dodge Caliber at their plant in Belvidere. That means a second shift and it means 1 thousand brand new jobs. Stop and think for a second about what we've done here. We dug ourselves out of the worst fiscal crisis in our state's history. We did it while investing more in education. We did it while giving more people health care, and we did it without raising the income tax or raising the sales tax, leaving Illinois with the lowest average income tax rates in the region. And as for pensions, it is indisputable that we have strengthened our pensions over the last 3 years. I knew that was gonna wake you up, too. We have invested more money in our pensions than any administration in Illinois history. That's a fact. Our pension obligation bond has get... generated significant investment returns, that was good financing. Our reforms reduced our long-term liability and by reducing headcount, we have shaved \$5 billion off our long-term pension obligations. Three years ago, 3 years ago the pension systems were funded at 48 percent. Today, 3 years later, they're funded at 60 percent. Three years ago, for every \$100 we owed, \$48 went into the pension system. Today, for every \$100 in the pension system... for every \$100 we invest in the pension system, \$60 goes into the pension system. Now there's more work to do, but we have made real progress. Now that brings us to today and where do we go from here. I'm purposing a budget that invests a lot more money in our schools, helps more money... helps more people get health care, helps our police fight crime, creates more jobs, strengthens our pensions, and streamlines our government. We have 57 thousand employees doing what 70 thousand did just a few years ago. But now we can leverage management expertise from the private sector and use technology to do even more with less. Ideally, State Government should have one payroll system, one human resources system, and one accounting system. Instead we have nine payroll systems, 38 human resources systems, and 104 accounting systems. Our efforts so far to streamline government have already saved us hundreds of millions of dollars, but we can streamline even more. That's why I wanna combine our administrative functions and make government a lot less expensive and a lot less complicated. This is a big change but we can make it happen. And when we do, we can save the taxpayers of Illinois more than \$115 million a year. There are four things I wanna achieve in this budget when it comes to health care. First, we are going to enroll all uninsured kids into our AllKids program. Next, our veterans' care plan will begin to cover our uninsured veterans starting with those veterans below the poverty line who live the furthest from VA medical centers. And now let me tell you about two new proposals in the area of health care. By the year 2020, we're going to need 21 thousand more nurses. Our current workforce of nurses is nearing retirement. We need more nurses. So, my plan to address the nursing shortage includes: more scholarships for nursing students, help nursing schools add more faculty to train more students, help nurses pay their students loan... student loans, and make sure we process nursing licenses faster. Stem cell research holds the promise of curing diseases, diseases that afflict our parents and our grandparents, diseases that afflict our children, diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and juvenile diabetes. If there's an opportunity to cure those diseases, I believe we oughta seize it. Last year we became the first state in the Midwest to publicly fund stem cell research; we took a step forward. But if we wanna keep moving forward, we need to make a decision, all of us. Are we for stem cell research or not? If we are, then we oughta pass a Bill that funds it. Comptroller Dan Hynes and I have proposed... have a proposal on the table, \$100 million over 5 years to fund stem cell research. We can pay for it from tobacco settlement proceeds. For anyone with a parent, for anyone with a grandparent, a child, a loved one, or a friend who

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suffers from a disease that can be cured by stem cell research, we can offer them more than just our hopes and our prayers. We can offer them the possibility that the... the disease they have can one day actually be cured. I don't know about you but I say let's keep creating jobs. We've added 64 thousand jobs in the past year but we can do so much more. Many of our cities have riverfront properties. Unfortunately, many of those riverfront properties are environmentally contaminated after years of industrial use. From Alton to Peoria, Rock Island to Elgin, we can do more with our riverfronts, clean the environment, and create new jobs. That's why I'm proposing the River's Edge Tax Credit that gives developers incentives to clean and develop brownfields along our rivers. By forming partnerships with riverfront cities, we can revitalize our riverfronts across Illinois and by the way, create thousands of jobs. We've already been working with the City of Aurora and with Mayor Tom Weisner. And I'd like to thank Mayor Weisner for his vision and for his good ideas. We passed a tax credit in 2003 that gave studios a reason to start making movies here in Illinois again. Since then... you like that, huh? Since then, Illinois has become a mecca for making movies and we now have the first TV drama filmed here in 6 years. But recently other states have passed tax credit that are far more generous than ours. If we are going to maintain our competitive edge, we need... we need our film tax credit to be expanded. And we can create over 230 thousand jobs all across Illinois if we pass our jobs plan. These are good jobs and they're good paying jobs and they are jobs in every part of Illinois. They pay anywhere from 40 thousand to 120 thousand dollars a year. And these jobs will help us build new roads, build new schools, and build better mass transit facilities. If you wanna keep our economy moving in the right direction, we must put partisan politics aside, let's pass a jobs Bill, let's put people to work. We've been working to improve the regulatory climate for business. If you get a chance, check out our new business portal website at businessillinois.gov. Our business portal is one-stop shopping for licensing, regulations, permits, and grants. Now it's time to take the next step. There are 1 million professionals who rely on the state for their licenses... for their... for their licenses or grants to be renewed. We're going to speed up that process and we're going to do what it takes to get those licenses issued faster from 4 to 19 weeks, which is what it is today, down to 1 to 4 weeks. Crime is down and we want that to continue. That's why I believe we should add new front-line police officers, create the Prairie State DNA Institute and create a new prison... a new prison facility to help meth users break the cycle of crime and addiction. We should build the Prairie State DNA Institute. Over the last few years we've invested an additional \$7.3 million to bring the DNA backlog down from 10 months to less than 3 months. Most of our forensic samples are processed in labs by other states. We brought the backlog down considerably but unless we bring the process fully under our control, we will always be at the mercy of labs in other states. The Prairie State DNA Institute means taking full control of that process, training forensic scientists at our own universities, and even developing a new cottage industry of forensic scientists here in Illinois. A little while ago, I talked about the progress we've made in strengthening our pensions. We have made progress but there's a lot more to do. That's why today I'm proposing four new steps to increase funding to help our pensions. First, dedicate the revenue from the sale of the tenth casino license to our pension systems. That's a long-term solution that we need to begin thinking about now. Next, give incentives to teachers so it makes financial sense for them to teach longer and start collecting their pensions later. Third, use the proceeds from selling surplus state property for our pensions. And last, identify sources of revenue for this specific purpose, new sources of revenue, so that we can contribute to the state pensions systems and keep a steady flow of funding. We have to continue to invest in our pensions so that we can meet our responsibilities to the workforce of yesterday and the workforce of tomorrow. But we also have to meet our responsibilities to the workforce of tomorrow. So now, I wanna talk about our investments in education. The education budget I'm proposing today has four major components: \$400 million in new funding for schools, a grant program to reduce class sizes, a \$1 thousand tax credit to help pay for college, and universal preschool. The \$400 million increase in education funding would come from three sources: increased revenue growth, transfers from special-purpose funds, and closing unfair corporate loopholes like the one that keeps the Department of Revenue from actually being able to crack down on businesses that cheat on their taxes. If we pass this proposal and invest another \$400 million in new funding for our schools, we will have increased education funding by \$3.8 billion over the last 4 years, \$3.8 billion over the last 4 years without raising taxes on the hardworking people of Illinois. We're not only providing more money for K through 12 education, this budget also increases funding for higher education by \$40 million. Public universities would get \$18 million to make sure they can offer competitive salaries to their faculty. Our community colleges would get \$7 million in new grants and we've expanded our MAP financial aid program by \$8 million to help more lower income and middle-class students afford college. This brings us to preschool. I'm going to ask us to take a break from the charts and graphs for a second and talk about preschool for all children. Children learn better when they have a chance to go to preschool. They learn how to read

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better. They do better in school. They're 30 percent more likely to graduate from high school. They're 41 percent less likely to need special education. And a study by the State Board of Education found that through the eighth grade nearly 80 percent of children who attended preschool rank as average or above average. How a child reads by the third grade is widely considered the single best indicator of how that child will do in school. Children who begin to learn by the age of three have higher reading scores by the third grade than children who don't. And when you think about it, it makes sense. Scientists tell us that 90 percent of brain growth occurs before the age of five. So, giving children the opportunity to learn while their brains are still developing is far more significant than teaching them the same things later on. Now, for those of us who are parents, stop and think for a second about your own experiences with your kids. I see it almost every day with our little girl, Annie. She's two and a half and every time I turn around, she's discovered a new idea, learned a new word or two, or has something new to say. The opportunity for children to learn during these precious years shouldn't be squandered, it should be embraced. But a three-year-old or a four-year-old can't say, 'Mom, send me to preschool.' And a parent can't do it if preschool isn't available. This isn't just a nice thing we should do, we have an obligation to make preschool available. It is up to a parent to decide whether their child should go to preschool but it is up to us to make sure they have that choice. So, I'm proposing that we make Illinois the first and only state in America to give every three-year-old and every four-year-old the chance to go to preschool. Every child should have access to preschool and every parent who wants to should be able to send them there. And that includes parents of low-income families. We should help them send their kids to preschool. This is the best way to start their kids on the right track. Why would we handicap the children of those in need when we instead can give them the tools to build a better life. And then there's the middle class and here again, just like it was when it came to health care for their kids, it's the middle-class who finds themselves left out. They do most of the work, they pay most of the taxes, but for middle-class families that earn less than \$75 thousand a year, half of their children don't attend preschool. We know preschool works. We know it pays off. We also know that the cost of private preschool is often out of reach for too many families. They simply can't afford it. They shouldn't be penalized for being middle class. Their kids should have the same opportunity as everyone else. That's why I'm asking you to join me, let's make Illinois the first state in the nation to offer universal preschool to every three-year-old and every four-year-old. Thank you. What I'm asking you to do is more than pass a Bill or pass a budget. I'm asking you to embrace a broader vision, a vision that all children oughta have access to health care and all children oughta have access to preschool. We are in the position we're in today, where we can give every single child access to health care and every single child access to preschool, because for the past 3 years we have consistently worked to change the priorities of State Government. We stopped spending the people's money on things that don't really help people and instead, started investing in our children and in our future. Now, I understand... now, I understand some of you may not agree with this proposal. You've said things like, 'Sometimes you just have to say 'no'.' I agree. But the question is, 'Who do you say 'no' to?' Are we going to say 'no' to giving a child the chance to go to preschool or are we going to say 'no' to a corporate loophole that protects tax cheats? Are we going to say 'no' to giving a child the chance to start learning early or are we going to say 'no' to the special interests wants... that wants to protect their funds? Are we going to say 'no' to a parent who gets up every single day and goes to work, who does a good job, and every day works as hard as she can, who plays by the rules and pays her taxes or are we going to say 'no' to those who would roll back the progress we've made in making government smaller and more efficient? You wanna hear me say 'no'? Okay. I say 'no' to corporate loopholes that puts small businesses at a disadvantage. I say 'no' to special interests who put their funds ahead of everyone else. I say 'no' to returning to the old days of bloated state payrolls. But I say 'yes' to making sure every child gets health care. I say 'yes' to making sure every three-year-old and every four-year-old gets a chance to start school early. And I say 'yes' to the idea... I say 'yes' to the idea that government ought to be investing in its children, that government ought to be investing in its future. Thank you. I'm gonna try to say something that you guys might like. Now... now, we are all in the business of choosing. What you say 'yes' and 'no' to defines who you are, what you stand for, what values you believe in, and whose side you're on. So, I'm asking you, say 'yes' to our kids. I am asking you to say 'yes' to universal preschool. If we pass this budget, it means universal preschool. It means children will go to school with smaller class sizes. It means they'll go to schools that will have benefited from an increase of \$3.8 billion in state funding over the last 4 years. It means graduating from high school with tougher standards, more science, more math, more reading, and more writing. And it means a \$1 thousand tax credit for college. This budget is about continuing to make progress for the people of Illinois. A few weeks ago, I unveiled a number of initiatives to do that. I'd like to conclude by giving you a clear sense of where we can take our state. We inherited a massive deficit. We balanced the budget by controlling spending, reducing the payroll, consolidating agencies,

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and setting the right priorities. Now, we can remake government even further by combining all of our administrative functions and eliminating the endless duplication of work across State Government. We inherited a deep recession and job loss. We turned that around and added 64 thousand new jobs last year. Now, we must take several more steps, including a jobs Bill that we create 230 thousand new jobs. Education was underfunded. We invested \$2.3 billion, expanded preschool, and raised standards. Now let's help every three- and four-year-old go to preschool, reduce class sizes, invest another \$400 million in our schools, and give students a \$1 thousand tax credit for college. Not enough people had health care, we turned that around and became the number one state in American that gives people access to health care. More working parents than any other state, health care for every child, improved prescript... prescription drug coverage for seniors, and now we can begin to cover our veterans who don't have health care. We can work to solve the nursing shortage and cure critical diseases through stem cell research. On public safety, we inherited the dual challenges of fighting crime and fighting terrorism. The crime rate is falling. Highway fatalities are at a 60-year low and we are recognized as one of the top states in homeland security preparedness. Now, we can add more police officers, build the Prairie State DNA Institute and end the cycle of crime and addiction for meth addicts. So, let's take one final look at where we were, how far we've come, and where we need to go. Just a few years ago, we had a budget with a record deficit, a bloated payroll, and misplaced priorities. Since then, we've eliminated the deficit, done more for our schools than 43 other states and any administration in Illinois history, made Illinois the only the state to guarantee health care to every child, created new jobs, brought down the crime rate, and reduced the size of government. The budget I presented today builds on that progress. This is a budget that does more for the people of Illinois. Now, there are those who wanna take the line item we put into this budget to expand health care for kids and cut it. There are those who'd pursue policies that would have us cut education. There are some who are tempted to protect a special interest loophole instead of providing a preschool slot for a child who needs it. There are those who would slash the funding we put in for stem cell research, for more nurses, or even for our efforts to protect seniors from Medicare cuts. The cuts some wanna make are not black ink on a white page. They are cuts that hurt people. They are cuts that abandoned our commitment to one another. We have found a way, not an easy way, but we found a way to balance our budget while staying true to our values and true to our principles. You have done the right thing. The gravitational pull of partisanship will say, cut, slash, burn, take us back. I say, let us continue to move forward. We are here to do good things for the hardworking people of Illinois and one of the ways we can keep doing that is to pass a budget that is about helping them. Let's pass this budget. Thank you and God bless the people of Illinois.

At the hour of 1:28 o'clock p.m., President Jones moved that the Joint Assembly do now arise. The motion prevailed.

AFTER RECESS

Thereupon the Senate returned to the Senate Chambers and resumed consideration of business. Senator DeLeo, presiding.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

EMIL JONES, JR.
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 15, 2006

Ms. Linda Hawker
Secretary of the Senate
Room 403 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

[February 15, 2006]

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to Rule 3-2(c), I hereby appoint Senator Rickey Hendon to temporarily replace Senator Ira Silverstein as a member of the Senate Commerce & Economic Development Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Sincerely,
s/Emil Jones, Jr.
Senate President

cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Senator Haine, Chairperson of the Committee on Insurance, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2375, 2582, 2718 and 2959**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Crotty, Chairperson of the Committee on Local Government, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2255, 2631, 2777, 2798, 2969 and 2986**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Crotty, Chairperson of the Committee on Local Government, to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 2340**, reported the same back with amendments having been adopted thereto, with the recommendation that the bill, as amended, do pass.

Under the rules, the bill was ordered to a second reading.

Senator Lightford, Chairperson of the Committee on Education, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2477, 2546, 2795 and 2829**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Lightford, Chairperson of the Committee on Education, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2762, 2796 and 2882**, reported the same back with amendments having been adopted thereto, with the recommendation that the bills, as amended, do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Munoz, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation, to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 2808**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

Under the rules, the bill was ordered to a second reading.

Senator Munoz, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2405 and 2650**, reported the same back with amendments having been adopted thereto, with the recommendation that the bills, as amended, do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Meeks, Chairperson of the Committee on Housing & Community Affairs, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2290 and 3036**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Cullerton and Senator Dillard, Co-Chairpersons of the Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2243, 2368, 2374, 2427, 2515, 2680, 2684, 2960, 2985, 3016 and 3037**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

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Senator Cullerton and Senator Dillard, Chairpersons of the Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2197, 2284, 2291, 2320, 2613, 2616, 2673, 2676, 2737, 2738, 2869, 2873, 2955, 2962, 2968, 2980 and 3018**, reported the same back with amendments having been adopted thereto, with the recommendation that the bills, as amended, do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Martinez, Chairperson of the Committee on Pensions & Investments, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2492 and 2740**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator J. Sullivan, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture & Conservation, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2263, 2744, 2810, 2841 and 2887**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator J. Sullivan, of the Committee on Agriculture & Conservation, to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 2716**, reported the same back with amendments having been adopted thereto, with the recommendation that the bill, as amended, do pass.

Under the rules, the bill was ordered to a second reading.

Senator Clayborne, Chairperson of the Committee on Environment & Energy, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2198, 2580 and 2884**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Clayborne, Chairperson of the Committee on Environment & Energy, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2333 and 2579**, reported the same back with amendments having been adopted thereto, with the recommendation that the bills, as amended, do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Garrett, Chairperson of the Committee on State Government, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2159, 2674, 2870, 2921 and 2931**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Garrett, Chairperson of the Committee on State Government, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2868 and 2949**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills, as amended, do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Harmon, Chairperson of the Committee on Revenue, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2173, 2241, 2242, 2246, 2369 and 2872**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Harmon, Chairperson of the Committee on Revenue, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2123, 2185 and 2709**, reported the same back with amendments having been adopted thereto, with the recommendation that the bills, as amended, do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Silverstein, Chairperson of the Committee on Executive, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 1835, 2302, 2358, 2827, 2845, 2983 and 3053**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bills do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Silverstein, Chairperson of the Committee on Executive, to which was referred **Senate Bills numbered 2180, 2310, 2400, 2445, 2505, 2558, 2688, 2847 and 3086**, reported the same back

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with amendments having been adopted thereto, with the recommendation that the bills, as amended, do pass.

Under the rules, the bills were ordered to a second reading.

Senator Maloney, Chairperson of the Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 2376**, reported the same back with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

Under the rules, the bill was ordered to a second reading.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Message for the Governor by Joseph B. Handley
Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs

February 2, 2006

Mr. President,

The Governor directs me to lay before the Senate the following Message:

STATE OF ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable

Members of the Senate
Ninety-Fourth General Assembly

I have nominated and appointed the following named persons to the offices enumerated below and respectfully ask concurrence in and confirmation of these appointments of your Honorable body.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY REVIEW BOARD, DEPARTMENT OF

To be a Member of the Department of Employment Security Review Board for a term commencing January 23, 2006 and ending January 17, 2007:

J. Hunt Bonan of McLeansboro
Salaried

HEALTH, STATE BOARD OF

To be a Member of the State Board of Health for a term commencing January 23, 2006 and ending November 1, 2006:

Jane Jackman of Springfield
Non-Salaried

To be a Member of the State Board of Health for a term commencing January 23, 2006 and ending November 1, 2006:

Janice E. Linn of Chicago
Non-Salaried

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF DUPAGE COUNTY

To be the Public Administrator of DuPage County for a term commencing January 27, 2006 and ending December 3, 2009:

[February 15, 2006]

Thomas M. Leinenweber of Evanston
Non-Salaried

PUBLIC GUARDIAN OF DUPAGE COUNTY

To be the Public Guardian of DuPage County for a term commencing January 27, 2006 and ending December 5, 2009:

Robert I. Mork of Wheaton
Non-Salaried

Rod Blagojevich
GOVERNOR

Message for the Governor by Joseph B. Handley
Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs

February 9, 2006

Mr. President,

The Governor directs me to lay before the Senate the following Message:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable

Members of the Senate
Ninety-Fourth General Assembly

I have nominated and appointed the following named persons to the offices enumerated below and respectfully ask concurrence in and confirmation of these appointments of your Honorable body.

ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

To be the Illinois State Fire Marshal for a term commencing February 6, 2006 and ending January 15, 2007:

David B. Foreman of Shorewood
Salaried

GOVERNOR'S STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To be a Member of Governor's State University Board of Trustees for a term commencing February 3, 2006 and ending January 17, 2011:

Lois R. Mayer of Crete
Non-Salaried

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

To be a Member of the State Board of Health for a term commencing February 3, 2006 and ending November 1, 2007:

Dr. Jorge A. Girotti of Elmhurst

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Non-Salaried

To be a Member of the State Board of Health for a term commencing February 3, 2006 and ending November 1, 2006:

Dr. Jerry E. Kruse of Quincy
Non-Salaried

To be a Member of the State Board of Health for a term commencing February 3, 2006 and ending November 1, 2006:

Dr. Javette C. Orgain of Chicago
Non-Salaried

To be a Member of the State Board of Health for a term commencing February 3, 2006 and ending November 1, 2008:

Ann M. O'Sullivan of Mt. Sterling
Non-Salaried

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To be a Member of Governor's State University Board of Trustees for a term commencing February 3, 2006 and ending January 17, 2011:

Robert J. Cook of Macomb
Non-Salaried

To be a Member of Governor's State University Board of Trustees for a term commencing February 3, 2006 and ending January 15, 2007:

Donald W. Griffin of Macomb
Non-Salaried

To be a Member of Governor's State University Board of Trustees for a term commencing February 3, 2006 and ending January 17, 2011:

Steven Nelson of Moline
Non-Salaried

Rod Blagojevich
GOVERNOR

Message for the Governor by Joseph B. Handley
Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs

February 15, 2006

Mr. President,

The Governor directs me to lay before the Senate the following Message:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable
Members of the Senate

[February 15, 2006]

Ninety-Fourth General Assembly

I have nominated and appointed the following named persons to the offices enumerated below and respectfully ask concurrence in and confirmation of these appointments of your Honorable body.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, ILLINOIS COMMITTEE FOR

To be a Member of the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education for a term commencing February 10, 2006 and ending March 13, 2006:

Douglas R. Falk of Cuba
Non-salaried

To be a Member of the Illinois Committee for Agriculture Education for a term commencing March 14, 2006 and ending March 13, 2009:

Douglas R. Falk of Cuba
Non-salaried

HEALTH, STATE BOARD OF

To be a Member of the State Board of Health for a term commencing February 10, 2006 and ending November 1, 2006:

Peter Orris of Chicago
Non-salaried

To be a Member of the State Board of Health for a term commencing February 10, 2006 and ending November 1, 2006:

Tim J. Vega of Peoria
Non-salaried

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR & PUBLIC GUARDIAN OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

To be Public Administrator & Public Guardian of Winnebago County for a term commencing March 6, 2006 and ending December 7, 2009:

Sharon R. Rudy of Rockford
Non-salaried

STATE POLICE MERIT BOARD

To be a Member of the State Police Merit Board for a term commencing February 10, 2006 and ending March 19, 2012:

Niranjan S. Shah of Oak Brook
Non-Salaried

Rod Blagojevich
GOVERNOR

Under the rules, the foregoing Messages were referred to the Committee on Executive Appointments.

[February 15, 2006]

At the hour of 5:44 o'clock p.m., the Chair announced that the Senate stand adjourned until Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 1:30 o'clock p.m.