



**SHRIVER
CENTER**

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Taking action to end poverty

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“WE CAN’T WAIT AND WE’RE NOT GOING AWAY”

The Responsible Budget Coalition refuses to give up on Illinois House Bill 174

The more than 300 social service organizations that have banded together to form the Responsible Budget Coalition believe that the fact that Illinois is second only to the most populous state in the nation when it comes to state budget deficits is a preposterous notion. It is why the organization rallied in Springfield recently with thousands of supporters to protest the lack of movement on Illinois House Bill 174. It is why the people of Illinois can no longer wait and it is why the Responsible Budget Coalition is not going away.

House Bill 174 would save jobs, institutions and social services while at the same time raising the state’s personal and corporate income tax from three to five percent.

“If the House does not approve this bill, we are looking at everything from more teacher lay-offs to whole institutions closing,” said John Bouman, a member of the Responsible Budget coalition and president of the Shriver Center. “The current Illinois budget has already forced deep cuts in the areas of education, healthcare, human services and public safety—all the elements that help people survive. How much more are they going to ask the Illinois people to suffer?”

The Responsible Budget Coalition brings together many diverse organizations that represent and serve millions of Illinois residents. The coalition is committed to building the support needed to solve Illinois’ budget crisis, prevent harmful cuts to essential public services, save jobs, eliminate the state’s long-term structural deficit, and make taxes fairer.

“Of the states that impose a state income tax, Illinois has the lowest maximum rate with a flat rate of three percent,” said Bouman. “House Bill 174 proposes to not only raise the tax to five percent, but it also offers tax relief through raising the personal exemption, doubling the state property tax credit and other means. House Bill 174 offers a win-win situation, and all we want is for our legislators to realize that and sign the bill.”