



**News from**  
State Representative Franco Coladipietro

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**Coladipietro: Governor Lacks Real Solutions for State's Problems**

**Springfield** ... The Governor's budget address sounded awfully familiar to last year's address which included the same "tax and spend" policies that have driven this state deeper in debt said State Representative Franco Coladipietro (R-Bloomingtondale).

Some of Governor Blagojevich's proposals include selling of state assets and pension bonds, increasing spending for existing state programs by \$400 million and adding \$1 billion in annually reoccurring business taxes.

"Sometimes it feels as if this state is on the same course as the Titanic. Everyone can clearly see the iceberg ahead. Yet, this Governor and the Democratic leadership continue to steer the ship right into it," Coladipietro said. "Our state is in dire financial strains. We have a projected \$600 million budget shortfall this year and yet the Governor gave us a budget address that was full of fluff and contained no substance. The state needs real solutions not the typical Democrat policy of increase taxes and spending on the working class."

Last year, the legislature unanimously rejected the Governor's multi-billion dollar tax increase for an expansion of socialized healthcare. Even though a bi-partisan coalition of members (JCAR) saw the fiscal irresponsibility and rejected his proposal, the Governor still enacted his programs without a revenue source to fill the void. According to Comptroller Dan Hynes, the state currently has a backlog of \$1.7 billion in unpaid bills with 61% of that backlog owed to doctors, nurses and hospitals that care for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

"Last year, the legislature passed a budget based on revenue projections that unfortunately did not take into account the downturn in the economy or the Governor's stubborn insistence of expanding and increasing spending for state programs. Not only is this state faced with a projected shortfall of \$600 million, but starting in April the state will have run out of money to pay doctors, nurses and hospitals that care for individuals on Medicaid," Coladipietro said.

"How will the Governor respond to this crisis? Will he fashion a doomsday scenario, like the one seen for riders of mass transit? This Governor has directly put our most vulnerable citizens - low income families, kids and seniors - at risk for being denied service by the state that can't pay their bills and doctors and nurses who haven't been paid in months," Coladipietro said.

For additional information, Rep. Coladipietro can be contacted at (630) 582-0045.

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