



News from
State Representative Franco Coladipietro

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coladipietro
June 1, 2009

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**“In like a lion and out like a lamb...Session ends on a
disappointing note”**

Democrats Propose Higher Income Taxes and Fund Sweeps for Temporary Budget

Springfield ... Following the impeachment of Governor Blagojevich, legislators came into this year’s Session with a renewed spirit of optimism and hope. However, Session culminated in a significantly disappointing finish on Sunday evening. After five months of silence and a whirlwind week of tax and fee proposals, State Representative Franco Coladipietro (R-Bloomington) voted against a 50% income tax increase and expressed his disappointment with the “band-aid” budget which passed the House.

“Today, the Democrat leadership in this state showed us they are out of touch with the residents of this state. Residents want reform, job creation and a government that doesn’t always shift its financial burden to them,” said Rep. Coladipietro. “This state desperately needs change but the budget I saw tonight was nothing more than the status quo. This needs to stop.”

Rep. Coladipietro noted that even though the legislature has been in session since January, the Governor and Speaker did not hold one single budget hearing and negotiations were only held between the Democrat leaders.

The “band-aid” budget which passed the House has numerous components to it, including fund sweeps for mental health and drivers education; refinancing of state bonds to a lower interest rate, and spending which would have been used to partially reimburse social service providers that service the developmentally disabled, low-income residents, etc.

“There was bipartisan support for the refinancing of state bonds because it was fiscally responsible and didn’t pass the buck to the residents. I don’t understand why the state couldn’t follow that same logic by passing economic reform and making responsible cuts to the budget,” said Rep. Coladipietro. “When we’re calling for more

transparency in state spending, I was also shocked that the Democrat budget gave the Governor and his state agency's a lump sum appropriation without showing exactly where every tax dollar is spent.”

Rep. Coladipietro added that before the Governor and Speaker Madigan looked at increasing the income tax and severely cutting social services, there should have been an attempt to first prioritize state spending, make cuts to the budget and implement meaningful fiscal and ethics reform. Some budget reforms suggested by the Republicans include Medicaid reform and mandating that any new spending must be offset with eliminating an existing program or identifying a dedicated revenue source to pay for it, etc.

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