



News from
State Representative Franco Coladipietro

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2007

CONTACT: Rep. Franco Coladipietro
(630) 582-0045

Seniors, Local School Districts and Taxpayers Benefit from Passed Budget

Springfield ... Today, the House passed a budget which would increase funding for education and Medicaid without raising taxes on local families. "I'm happy that the state finally has a budget - more importantly school districts will receive their state funding on time and state workers will get paid," State Representative Franco Coladipietro (R-Bloomington) said.

Rep. Coladipietro stated that some of the highlights of the state budget include: \$59.9 million increase for higher education and \$600 million increase for education including \$136.8 million for mandated categoricals, \$400 increase from \$5,334 to \$5,734 in the general state aid – foundation level, \$20 million increase for the early childhood block grant and a \$13.7 million increase for the textbook loan program. Funding for these programs would come from a projected \$2.2 billion natural growth in state revenue.

"I feel that the legislature has produced a responsible budget that will allow us to live within our means and not raise taxes on the working families of this state," Coladipietro said. "I'm extremely pleased that the majority of the revenue surplus will be used to increase funding for education especially the mandated categoricals which includes special education programs for my local school districts. In addition, the healthcare professionals who serve our senior and children on Medicaid will no longer have to wait months before receiving payment for their service."

The legislature has been in overtime session since May 31st. After May 31st, the budget needs a 3/5 majority to pass. The House Republicans had proposed a no growth budget back in May and were only invited to the budget negotiations during the overtime session.

"All of the priorities of this state might not have necessarily been met by this budget. However, the legislature has produced a responsible budget that will maintain and improve our current infrastructure," Coladipietro said.

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