



News from
State Representative Franco Coladipietro

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Coladipietro Opposes Governor's Raid on Veteran's Funds

Springfield ... With the end of session looming, State Representative Franco Coladipietro (Bloomington) sends a message to Governor Blagojevich that raiding the states veterans' funds is not an option to balance the budget. HB 1232 co-sponsored by Coladipietro would prohibit the Governor from transferring funds from dedicated veterans funds to the General Revenue Fund in order to defray operating costs. Current law gives the Governor the authority to direct the Treasurer and Comptroller to transfer money from a state fund to the General Revenue Fund (GRF). There are restrictions as to how much money the Governor can take from any given fund.

"Memorial Day has passed, and it's essential to reflect and remember the service of our veterans who ensure our freedom in this great country. It's completely intolerable that the Governor would even entertain the idea of cutting service to these deserving men and women." Coladipietro said.

Coladipietro stated that veteran funds that would be affected include the Illinois Veterans Assistance, the Illinois Veterans' Homes, the LaSalle Veterans Home, the Anna Veterans Home, the Manteno Veterans Home, the Quincy Veterans Home, the John Joseph Kelly Home, and the Illinois Veterans' Rehabilitation Funds. One example of this raid was seen in the Illinois Veterans' Rehabilitation Fund. Over the last four budget cycles, the Illinois Veterans' Rehabilitation Fund had \$1,026,434 raided by the Governor.

"The State of Illinois has 900 veterans that are sitting on a waiting list trying to get into these homes. This is particularly troubling not only because these homes have empty beds available to veterans but these beds sit empty due to the Governor not adequately funding the veterans' home operations," Coladipietro said. "Governor Blagojevich needs to control his spending instead of cutting services to the men and women who have honorably served our country."

The bill now advances to the Senate for further consideration. For additional information, Rep. Coladipietro can be contacted at (630) 582-0045.