


**THE
RAMEY RECORD**

State Representative Randy Ramey • 55th District

August E-Newsletter

Dear Friends,

While you are enjoying the warm summer months, I wanted to let you know that Illinois government does not stop even though session has adjourned until November.

More than 800,000 Illinoisans are out of work. Our state is facing a \$13 billion budget deficit in addition to a debt load that is now higher than troubled European countries like Portugal.

For the last two years, legislators have taken 12 furlough days in addition to a salary freeze. We also voted to decrease our stipends for travel, lodging and meals while in Springfield.

Unfortunately, Governor Quinn continues to spend money the state cannot afford. An Associated Press report showed Governor Quinn gave 43 raises averaging 11.4 percent to members of his staff – despite the budget crisis. The raises ranged from 1.5 percent, 20 percent to the highest of 63.6 percent. These pay raises are in addition to the ones he promised state unions prior to the February primary.

After much criticism from the media and the public, Governor Quinn asked his staff to take 24 furlough days and stated during a press conference about the issue, “It is something we must do and the governor must set the pace.”

Governor Quinn likes to portray himself as frugal, yet his actions show the exact opposite. The people who received the raises will now have a month off to enjoy it! This lack of financial restraint is unacceptable and I will continue to demand cost-saving legislation to be voted on. You deserve an efficient state government, not one that takes advantage of your hard-earned money.

Crime Victims Legislation Becomes Law

I have always worked to ensure victims have a voice in the criminal justice system. I recently passed into law House Bill 4807 that gives the Department of Human Services the authority to take into consideration the proximity of the defendant to the surviving family members of the victim, which is something current law did not address. It is a commonsense gesture the state can make to help ease the pain of the surviving family members. I filed the legislation in response to a local situation where the defendant was found not guilty of murder by reason of insanity and then housed at the Department of Human Services facility in close proximity to the surviving family members of the victim. I worked closely with the victim’s family to ensure their safety was considered in this case.

In relation to the same case, I also passed into law House Bill 5861 that requires a mental health facility or developmental facility operated by DHS to notify the state police if a patient leaves the facility without being discharged.

School Supply Tax Holiday

As the summer weeks fly by, the first day of school will be here before we know it. School registration, supplies and clothes can be quite costly therefore, I helped pass Senate Bill 3658 creating Illinois' first-ever School Supply Sales Tax Holiday.

From August 6-15, the Illinois 5-percent sales tax will be suspended on clothing items priced under \$100 and virtually all classroom supplies. The tax break does not include computer laptops, cell phones and art supplies. Local sales taxes will still be collected.

School supplies qualifying for tax holiday:

- Binders, book bags, calculators, cellophane tape and blackboard chalk
- Compasses, legal pads, composition books, crayons and erasers
- Expandable pocket, plastic and manila folders
- Glue, paste, paste sticks, markers and highlighters
- Index cards and index card boxes
- Lunch boxes
- Notebook paper, including loose leaf notebook, copy, graph, tracing, manila, colored and construction paper and poster board
- Pencils and pencil leads, pencil sharpeners, pens, ink and ink refills for pens
- Pencil boxes and other school supply boxes
- Protractors and rulers, scissors, and writing tablets

Clothing and foot wear under \$100 qualifying for tax holiday:

- Household and shop aprons, athletic supporters, belts and suspenders
- Bathing suits and caps
- Rainwear, rubber pants, lab coats, coats and jackets, scarves, gloves and mittens, hats, caps and ear muffs
- Neckties, shirts and blouses, school uniforms, shorts and pants, skirts and dresses, underwear, hosiery and pantyhose
- Shoes, sneakers, sandals, slippers, steel-toed shoes, boots and overshoes
- Shoe laces, insoles for shoes, socks and stockings

As always, feel free to contact me by emailing me at staterepramey55@aol.com or calling my district office at (630) 876-0703. You may also forward this e-mail on to anyone you may think would be interested.

Warmest regards,



State Representative
55th District