News From

State Representative Randy Ramey

For Immediate Release
March 10, 2010

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Ramey: Quinn Proposes More Taxes, Borrowing to Balance Budget

Springfield… Governor Pat Quinn delivered his second annual budget address to a joint session of the General Assembly today, calling for a tax increase, cuts, massive borrowing and further delaying billions in unpaid bills to close a massive budget shortfall. State Rep. Randy Ramey (R-Carol Stream) expressed disappointment in Quinn's failure to address budget and spending reforms, as well as his failure to offer more ideas to promote job creation in Illinois.

"Once again Pat Quinn has passed up on the opportunity to lead this state in the right direction," said Ramey. "Tough decisions must be made to put our fiscal house in order and increasing taxes, borrowing and delaying payments only pushes the financial burden off to future years. My calls for budget and spending reforms and added transparency to the budget process have been ignored by Democratic leaders in Springfield as they look to embrace the business-as-usual that got us into this mess to begin with."

Among the key components of Governor Quinn's budget plan are to borrow $4.7 billion, roll over $6.3 billion in unpaid bills to the following year and $2 billion in cuts. The cuts would include $1.3 billion to education and $270 million in cuts to health care. Additionally, the Governor proposes to reduce the state aid to local governments by 3 percent and short the state pension payment by $267 million.

In all, the Governor's budget proposal represents $24.7 billion in general revenue fund appropriations.

"One in every ten individual in Illinois is out of work, and the Governor only offered up one proposal to help create jobs," said Ramey. "While I support the proposal – it is going to take much more to turn things around. When people are working they are buying houses, cars, and other items which are good for our economy. If we fail to correct the inherent problem that we have become an anti-business state, our tax revenues will continue to decline and more Illinoisans will find themselves out of work. I cannot

support the budget proposed today, but look forward to the opportunity to work with the Governor to craft a budget that is responsible to the taxpayers of Illinois."