

NEWS

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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REP. MAY URGES SENATE TO REJECT PAY RAISES

Facing FY 2009 budget shortfalls, Senate leadership should take the responsible action

SPRINGFIELD – State Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) urges the Senate leadership to take action on House Joint Resolution 132 which rejects the pay raise for state office holders recommended by the Illinois Compensation Review Board.

“I have gone on the record to oppose these pay raises because it is wrong for lawmakers to accept more taxpayer money during a difficult financial period when the citizens paying for it are not making more money,” May said. “We need to work together to ensure funding for essential services like education, health care, and public safety, which should be given preference over pay raises for elected officials.”

The pay raises recommended by the Compensation Review Board this spring would boost the salaries of all state officeholders. The proposal from the board would hike Governor Blagojevich’s salary 12.8 percent from \$170,917 to \$192,773. Legislative leaders would get an 11.7 percent raise from \$91,824 to \$102,547. State lawmakers also would receive an 11.7 percent increase – \$65,353 to \$72,985.

The Compensation Review Board gives the General Assembly 30 session days to act on their recommendations. The review board submitted the report to the General Assembly on March 31 and the countdown officially began April 2. As of today (Tuesday, July 15), the Senate has been in session 28 days, giving them 2 more session days to reject these raises. Without action by the Senate the pay raises recommended by the Compensation Review Board would automatically take effect.

“I joined my colleagues in the House of Representatives in standing against this pay raise and the Senate should do the same,” May said. “We need to focus our scarce resources on more important matters facing residents of our state, like services for our most vulnerable citizens in need of social services and health care.”

For more information, please contact May at (847) 433-9100.

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