



On May 31st, the Illinois General Assembly passed a budget that will have devastating effects on rape victims and other children and families. **If new revenue sources are not identified by July 1st, major cuts to human services programs will go into effect. This budget will go into effect on July 1st unless we change its destiny.**

You must act because our elected officials did not!

Call your legislators today – and every day until they return to Springfield and pass a fair budget!

TAKE ACTION TODAY & EVERY DAY!

Step 1: Find Your Legislators

Visit www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType.aspx?NavLink=1 to or call 888-Vote-Smart (888-868-3762) find your legislators.

Step 2: Call Your Legislators

Call your legislators with the following messages:

Don'ts:

- **Don't** balance the budget on the backs of rape victims, families and children. It's not the way toward economic recovery
- **Don't** pass a budget with a 50%-100% cuts to vital programs such as rape crisis services, domestic violence and homeless shelters, child care, mental health, early childhood education and substance abuse (to name a few).

Do's:

- **Do** pass a tax increase that will create enough revenue to balance the budget.
- **Do** pass a budget that fully funds the vital services needed by low-income families and children – including rape crisis services.

Demand that your legislator do the right thing by passing a fair budget.

Remember, this is about more than just rape crisis services. These 50 percent cuts **WILL BE DISASTROUS** to all social services, including services for the elderly, children, the homeless, those with disabilities, those living with mental illness...the list goes on.

Think about how these cuts will not only affect the work you do, but how they will affect **your** community: your family, your neighbors, your friends, your local businesses.



YOUR legislators need to hear YOUR story, so tell it!

Below are responses you can use based on what your legislator may say to you:

If Your Legislator Says:

❖ ***I voted for the tax increase.***

You Say: Thank you, but you must stand up to the leadership in your party because rape victims, children & families in your district will be hurt by this budget. Your vote, in the end, doesn't change the outcome for rape victims and others.

❖ ***This isn't the time to raise taxes – the economy is too bad right now.***

You Say: The economy is bad right now, and it will get even worse in Illinois if 80,000 families who can't work without child care lose their assistance from the state and 56,000 sexual assault & domestic violence victims don't get the services that helps them get back on their feet. Paying a fraction more in taxes far outweighs the consequence that these cuts will have on rape victims, children and families and the economy in Illinois.

❖ ***I am against the tax increase.***

You Say: I am disappointed that you don't understand how devastating these cuts will be and I am holding you accountable for the rape victims, families and children that are going to lose access to critical services, parents who will lose their jobs and rape crisis centers that will have to shut their doors.

❖ ***Businesses cut budgets during hard times, and that's what government needs to do, too.***

You Say: Government is not a business, nor should it be run like one. In these tough times, government should provide a safety net to all its citizens when they need it the most. Research has shown that the manner in which victims of sexual violence are treated within 24 hours following the assault greatly impacts their recovery process. Rape crisis services get immediate help to survivors of sexual violence so they CAN work – it allows Illinois' economy to keep churning.

❖ ***Relax; this is only a partial-year budget. We'll find a way to fix it later.***

You Say: It doesn't work to fund ½ a 24-hour rape crisis service. We need a full year budget, and a budget that raises enough revenue to fund the critical services our children and families depend on in order to access the criminal justice system, to work, to heal, to prevent rape and go to school.