



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CUTTING HUMAN SERVICES IS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The Illinois General Assembly has indicated its intention to leave Springfield in early May. It is therefore likely that the coming week is the final one for negotiations on the FY2011 state budget. The reality that catastrophic cuts to human services are even being considered as part of a budget "solution" indicates that once again the leaders of our state are planning to balance the budget on the backs of struggling people and communities. As providers of human services and residents of this community we are disappointed in the lack of leadership.

In our community alone, human services touch 43,469 area residents and employ 697 people.

Who are the people that use human services? The working mom who needs help with her mentally disabled son, the student who is attending an after-school program to improve his grades and stay off the streets, a young girl down the block who is getting counseling because she has been physically abused, the single parent who child care makes it possible for her to work every day, the senior who receives in-home care so he can stay in his home and live independently rather than go into a nursing home.

If human services are cut, our community will suffer. People will lose essential services, others will be put out of work, and local businesses will have fewer customers. The local community will be forced to pick up the added costs that result from the "savings" these cuts achieve. We urge all of our legislators **to vote no** on **any** budget with **catastrophic cuts to human services** and to be a part of developing a plan to move the state toward financial stability before they leave town.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Steinhauser, LMSW, President/CEO, Bethany for Children & Families
Laurel S. Walker, CEO, Skip-A-Long Child Development Services
Sally O'Donnell, RN, School Health Link Inc.
Cindy Fisher, Executive Director, Rock Island County Children's Advocacy Center
Natalie Circello, Rock Island County Regional Office of Education
Sally Adams, Braveheart Children's Advocacy Center
Sue Swisher, Executive Director, Child Abuse Council
Gary Weinstein, Executive Director, Transitions Mental Health
Kathy Weiman, Executive Director, Alternatives for the Older Adult

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