



*"a catalyst for strong families
and powerful communities
where children matter most."*

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Statement from Illinois Action for Children on Governor Rauner's State of the State Address

After more than 18 months without a state budget, it was heartening to hear the Governor speak today in support of the budget compromise being worked on in the Senate. However, any rhetoric on this front needs to be matched by real action.

We call on Governor Rauner and the General Assembly to set aside all political differences and pass a fully-funded FY17 state budget, including the full restoration of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to June 30th, 2015 levels. This **must** happen for the Governor's words today about "the success of every child in every community" to actually ring true.

While the CCAP was partially restored in November 2015 as a result of intense advocacy and the voice of parents from across the state, there are 30,000 fewer children receiving child care in Illinois today because of those initial changes. That impacts the development of those children and the ability of their parents to go to work every day.

Beyond child care, the lack of a state budget has weakened the foundation of critical services and supports that Illinois residents rely on for their social and economic well-being – such as services for domestic violence, mental health, and violence prevention. It is unconscionable that children and families continue to bear the brunt of the lack of urgency that has been exhibited in Springfield up to this point.

It's been almost two years. Our state's economic well-being and potential is at risk like never before. The campaigns are over. The rhetoric, the name-calling, the spin...hopefully that has come to an end as well. We need to get a fair and equitable budget done.

Quite simply, it is time for action.

- Illinois Action for Children -

About Illinois Action for Children

As a state and national leader in the early care and education community, Illinois Action for Children stands distinguished by its "Strong Families, Powerful Communities" approach to child development, Pre-K and Head Start education, and other family and community supports. We believe that these supports work best to ensure school and life success when administered as part of a comprehensive system that includes parents and communities. This broad approach to supporting children by supporting families is a proven and effective means to address overarching issues of endemic poverty, which is the root cause of the educational failure of America's poorest children.

Illinois Action for Children is a nonprofit organization registered within Illinois with tax-exempt status under section 501C-3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. The Institute's federal ID number is 36-2712912. Donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please check with your tax advisor for further deduction eligibility. Donations may be disclosed to the public, unless given anonymously. We are committed to transparent accounting of the resources we receive. A copy of Illinois Action for Children's audited financial statement is available to anyone who requests it.

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